



Right to worship a civil right, Hindu side argues in Supreme Court

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Miffed Sanjay Nirupam to stay away from Congress campaign

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Mayank scores a double century as India takes control of first Test

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## NEARBY



Delhi Cabinet okays Bill to set up sports university

NEW DELHI  
The Delhi Cabinet on Thursday approved a Bill to set up "India's first" sports university in Delhi, which will offer graduation, post graduation and doctorate degrees in cricket, football, and hockey among other sports.

CITY ▶ PAGE 2

Kafeel Khan not given clean chit, says U.P. govt.

LUCKNOW  
Days after an internal inquiry absolved Gorakhpur-based paediatrician Kafeel Khan of the major charges against him in the 2017 BRD Hospital tragedy, the Uttar Pradesh government on Thursday asserted that Dr. Khan had not been given a clean chit as yet.

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(TABLOID)

Chidambaram moves SC for bail

## LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Former Union Finance Minister P. Chidambaram on Thursday moved the Supreme Court challenging the Delhi High Court's rejection of his plea for regular bail in the INX Media case on September 30.

The appeal in the Supreme Court was filed on a day the trial court extended his judicial custody till October 17 in the case. The lower court, however, allowed Mr. Chidambaram to have home-cooked food.

In his petition before the Supreme Court, Mr. Chidambaram said he had suffered over 40 days of incarceration, including the maximum permissible period of 15 days of CBI remand.

The plea was listed before a Bench of Justices R. Banumathi and Hrishikesh Roy on October 4.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

# Manmohan to join first batch of pilgrims to Kartarpur Sahib

President, PM to take part in Guru Nanak's 550th birth anniversary celebrations

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has agreed to be a part of the first 'jatha' (batch) of pilgrims to the Sikh shrine of Kartarpur Sahib across the border in Pakistan, while President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate in the 550th birth anniversary celebrations of Sikhism founder Guru Nanak Dev, Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh said on Thursday after formally inviting them.

He, however, made it clear that his government's 'jatha', of which Dr. Singh will be a part, will visit only Kartarpur Sahib and not attend the opening ceremony of the Kartarpur Corridor organised by the Pakistan government.

Last week, Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi announced that their government had extended an invitation to Dr. Singh.

Capt. Amarinder Singh, in a statement, said: "There is no question of me going to



Finishing touches: Work apace at the Gurdwara Darbar Sahib at Kartarpur in Pakistan as part of the corridor project. ▶ AFP

Pakistan for the Kartarpur corridor opening and I feel Dr. Manmohan Singh will not go as well. There is a huge difference between visiting Pakistan and going to the Gurdwara through the Corridor."

The clarification came after a section of the media reported that the Chief Minister and Dr. Singh had accepted the Pakistani invite. "As far as visiting Pakistan is concerned, the Chief Minister reiterated that he would not go there until Pakistan stops cross-border terrorism. Punjab was the

worst sufferer of cross-border terrorism and he cannot think of going there till it stops," a State government spokesperson said.

Kartarpur Sahib is a revered shrine of the Sikh community where Guru Nanak Dev settled down and lived for 18 years until his death. Though it is merely 4.7 km away, pilgrims from India have to take a circuitous route through Lahore to reach there.

In November last, India and Pakistan agreed to build the Kartarpur Corridor to connect Kartarpur Sahib

with Dera Baba Nanak Sahib on the Indian side.

Capt. Amarinder Singh has requested President Kovind and Prime Minister Modi to attend the function of the opening of the corridor in Punjab.

"The Chief Minister urged them both, in particular, to participate in the Kartarpur Corridor opening at Dera Baba Nanak and the November 12 main programme at Sultanpur Lodhi in Kapurthala," said the government spokesperson.

## Multiple events

Ahead of Guru Nanak Dev's birth anniversary or *Parkash Purb*, the State government has planned a series of events from November 5 to 15, including a plan to send an all-party delegation to Nankana Sahib, the birthplace of Guru Nanak Dev that is now in Pakistan.

In his meeting with Prime Minister Modi, the Chief Minister is learnt to have requested "Mr. Modi's personal intervention to give clearance for a *jatha* to visit the Nankana Sahib as well".

# Hasina to focus on economic agenda

'No problems in bilateral ties'

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE  
SUHASINI HAIDAR  
NEW DELHI



Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina arriving in New Delhi on Thursday. ▶ AP

Bangladesh will try to highlight economic opportunities in relation with India, visiting Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said here on Thursday. The comments showed Dhaka's desire to foreground the economic agenda which has been overshadowed by the fallout of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam and Home Minister Amit Shah's description of Bangladeshis as "infiltrators".

"There are no problems in bilateral ties. I have come here to discuss economic issues," said Ms. Hasina in response to a question from *The Hindu* during a public reception held at the Bangladesh High Commission.

Ms. Hasina addressed the World Economic Forum (WEF) soon after arriving here on Thursday and presented Bangladesh as a fast-growing economy and an attractive investment destination in South Asia.

"It is time for global investors, particularly Indian entrepreneurs, to invest in

Five SC judges recuse from Navlakha case

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

An appeal filed by activist Gautam P. Navlakha has taken an unusual trajectory in the Supreme Court – so far five judges have opted to recuse themselves in the three instances it came up for hearing since September 30.

The appeal concerns Mr. Navlakha's plea to protect his fundamental right to personal liberty and quashing of the FIR against him in the Bhima Koregaon case.

On Thursday, Justice S. Ravindra Bhat recused himself from hearing the petition when it came up for admission before a third three-judge Bench that also comprised Justice Arun Mishra, who led it, and Justice Vineet Saran.

A fourth Bench will take it up on October 4. The Supreme Court website showed the case listed before a Bench of Justices Mishra and Deepak Gupta.

It first came up before a three-judge Bench of Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justices S.A. Bobde and S. Abdul Nazeer.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

# Kashmir will race ahead soon: Shah

Article 370 was impeding its progress'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Thursday that Jammu & Kashmir would see huge development in the next decade.

He was speaking at the inauguration of a Vande Bharat Express train that will connect Delhi with the Vaishno Devi shrine in Jammu through the Katra railway station. Accompanied by Railway Minister Piyush Goyal and Cabinet colleagues Jitendra Singh and Harsh Vardhan, Mr. Shah flagged off the train from the New Delhi railway station.

Recalling the role of the Swadeshi movement during British rule, Mr. Shah said the coaches of the new train were "made in India."

The Minister lauded the government's move to revoke Article 370 that gave special status to Jammu & Kashmir. "Every Indian had



Amit Shah flagging off the Vande Bharat Express train on Thursday. ▶ R.V. MOORTHY

a feeling that [Article] 370 should go. The Narendra Modi government did it. The special status was the biggest impediment in the development of J&K... Kashmir will be one of the most developed States in the next 10 years... the process has begun with the inauguration of Vande Bharat," he said.

RAILWAYS WILL HELP ACHIEVE \$5 TRILLION GOAL ▶ PAGE 13

# Tarigami not allowed to attend party meet in Delhi

He is under house arrest in Srinagar

SOBHANA K. NAIR  
NEW DELHI

CPI(M) leader and former Jammu and Kashmir legislator Yousuf Tarigami has not been allowed by the Srinagar administration to attend a meeting of the central committee of the party underway in Delhi.

The central committee is the highest decision-making body of the party. The three-day meeting began on October 2.

"We had submitted an application to Srinagar District Magistrate Shahid Chaudhary well in time for the meeting. We didn't get any reply; he didn't even bother to meet us," said Irfan Gul, a close aide of Mr. Tarigami and convenor of the Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Youth Federation. Mr. Tarigami, 72, is under house arrest in Srinagar without any formal orders since August 5.

Mr. Tarigami, a four-time legislator, has not been allowed to travel or meet anyone.

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury said the Srinagar administration's decision was contrary to the Supreme Court judgment.

"It's very strange that he was denied permission even after the Supreme Court had said that he is not under detention and is free to move," he told *The Hindu*.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12



Yousuf Tarigami

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CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12

# Sealing threat for buildings lacking fire safety

HC directs fire dept., civic bodies to take action according to law

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has directed the city government, the fire department and the municipal authorities to take strict action, including sealing, against buildings lacking fire safety measures.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice C. Hari Shankar gave the direction while disposing of a public interest litigation seeking sealing

of two buildings in the Azadpur commercial complex for alleged non-compliance of fire safety norms.

**Plea disposed of**  
The court disposed of the petition after the North Delhi Municipal Corporation filed an affidavit stating that both of the buildings were issued fire safety certificates on June 14.

As the petition had also

sought sealing of all other buildings in the city which were not complying with fire safety norms, the court said: "As and when any building is lacking in fire safety measures, action shall be initiated by the respondents [authorities] in accordance with law, rules, regulations and government policies applicable to the facts of the case as early as possible and practicable."

# Delhi's tap water fails BIS test, deemed unsafe

Centre announces plans to conduct tests, release rankings early next month

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

With a new investigation of Delhi tap water showing that it is not safe to drink, the Centre has announced plans to test the quality of piped drinking water in the States and release Swachh Pani rankings early next month. It is also trying to build a consensus to make quality standards for tap water a mandatory requirement.

**Report by November**  
A team from the Bureau of Indian Standards has been sent to State capitals to collect samples of tap water to see if they meet quality standards, Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan told reporters on Thursday.

"We expect the report by the first week of November and will release Swachh Pa-



Preliminary testing found that samples failed to meet the 42 parameters of the BIS standard. ▶ REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE

Krishna Bhawan, both in central Delhi - shows that the capital's water does not comply with quality standards.

Meanwhile, Delhi has already failed that test. A BIS investigation of 11 tap water samples collected from various parts of the city - including the Minister's home at Janpath and his office in

make up the BIS standard. This shows that Delhi's tap water is not safe to drink, said Mr. Paswan, adding that the final lab results would be made public soon.

"After seeing the preliminary report for Delhi, we are holding consultations to see if we can mandate BIS' piped water standards at least in the national capital, the State capital and 100 smart cities," said the Minister, adding that BIS would be writing to State governments seeking their views on the issue.

All governments must agree on this issue, as it is a matter of people's lives."

He added that the Delhi government has indicated it is willing to make the BIS standard mandatory in the city.

Currently, it is mandatory for bottled water manufacturers to meet the BIS quality standard. However, the BIS standard for tap water is voluntary for the public agencies which supply and distribute piped water.

**Global standards**  
"The latest BIS standard was made in 2012, but it is not on par with international standards. I have asked BIS officials to see if we can match global quality," said Mr. Paswan.

He was speaking after a meeting with representatives from BIS, the State-run Delhi Jal Board, which supplies and distributes most of the city's water, the Centrally-controlled New Delhi Municipal Council, which distributes water in central Delhi, the Union Jal Shakti Ministry and the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

The program is completely flexible, and you can choose to write tests at your own pace, as per your preparation calendar. Those who have written Mains but are not satisfied can use both - this time of October-December and this program to sharpen the axe. This is also the time when we can make improvements - given that most people waste their crucial time in these months.

The program can also be used by candidates who are not confident of writing tests, by attending the discussions first and writing the tests later so that they slowly get used to answer writing.

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## IN BRIEF



Students protest at Minister's event in JNU

NEW DELHI

Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Thursday delivered a lecture at Jawaharlal Nehru University on 'Abrogation of Article 370: Peace, Stability and Development in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh' at the convention centre. A group of students protested outside the venue of the lecture and shouted slogans ahead of the speech. There was also a brief scuffle between protesting students and members of the ABVP with sloganneering and counter sloganneering on the issue of abrogation of Article 370.

Air quality of Delhi-NCR		
Delhi	136	Gurugram 76
Ghaziabad	184	Faridabad -
Greater Noida	188	Noida 177
Good 0-50	Satisfactory 51-100	Moderate 101-200
Poor 201-300	Very poor 301-400	Severe >401
AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M. YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS)   SOURCE: CPCB		

The Delhi Cabinet on Thursday approved a Bill to set up "India's first" sports university in Delhi, which will offer graduation, post graduation and doctorate degrees in cricket, football, and hockey among other sports.

# Cabinet approves Bill to set up India's first sports university

Campus to come up in Mundka; it will offer UG, PG and doctorate degrees

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Cabinet on Thursday approved a Bill to set up "India's first" sports university in Delhi, which will offer graduation, post graduation and doctorate degrees in cricket, football, and hockey among other sports.

Making the announcement, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said that the university will come up in 90 acres of land in Mundka and there will also be sports schools.

He said that the Bill has to be now approved by Lt. Governor Anil Baijal and if approved soon, then it will be passed in the winter session of the Assembly.

"Earlier, a sportsperson used to be uncertain about his future, just for the fact that if he is not able to establish a career in sports, he will just be called a school pass out. He would not get a



Arvind Kejriwal

job because every job requires at least a graduation degree to get through. This sports university will grant you a degree in sports such as cricket, and hockey. A passionate sportsperson can now devote all his time to playing and excelling in sports," Mr. Kejriwal said.

**Affiliated to CBSE**  
The Delhi Sports University (DSU) is proposed to be set up as a State university and it will have a full-fledged Delhi Sports School, affiliat-

ed to the CBSE, for imparting education with emphasis on sports and to groom the students for a career in sports.

"The Delhi Sports University Bill" approved by the Cabinet, grants the university the right to establish constituent schools and colleges.

"It is a matter of disappointment that many students who have played sports at the national-level are nowhere on the same platform as students who can give their IAS examinations because they have a graduation degree. The share of jobs under sports quota is also limited. We are hoping to eradicate that uncertainty from the minds of sportspersons," said Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia.

"To ensure that such sportspersons are also equipped in educational and literary skills, the

Centre shall besides the training towards sporting excellence, have provisions and facilities for liberal academics to ensure that the trainees and sportspersons also obtain formal academic degrees from Delhi Sports University depending on their sporting talents," an official statement said.

"The Chancellor of the Delhi Sports University will be the Lt. Governor. The Vice-Chancellor would be a sportsperson of international eminence with administrative experience in a national-level institution.

# Now, working govt. officials can spend quality time with children

Sisodia inaugurates creche at Delhi Secretariat building

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Thursday inaugurated a creche at the Delhi Secretariat building so that government officials will be able to bring their children to work and leave them at the creche.

The government said that the Department of Women and Child Development took the initiative keeping in mind that many government officials leave their home and send their children to private creches, which forces parents to spend very less time with their children.

"With this initiative, officials can now keep their children within their own office premises which will not only help them to bridge the gap of physical distance between parents and children but also will strengthen both parents and the children emotional-ly," the government said.

Inaugurating the facility,



Manish Sisodia

Thanks to this idea of starting a creche. This is an excellent model which should be adopted by all workstations, including private organisations

MANISH SISODIA  
Deputy Chief Minister

the children which will create a favourable atmosphere for both. "I am happy that from now on the officials working here will be able to stay closer to their children, visit them, feed them and play with them. This is a precedence we are setting for the working women," Mr. Sisodia said.

The creche at the Secretariat building has two feeding centres, two sleeping rooms comprising four beds, a playroom, two dressing rooms and a huge living area for the children and their parents.

## Krait snake rescued from Malviya Nagar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

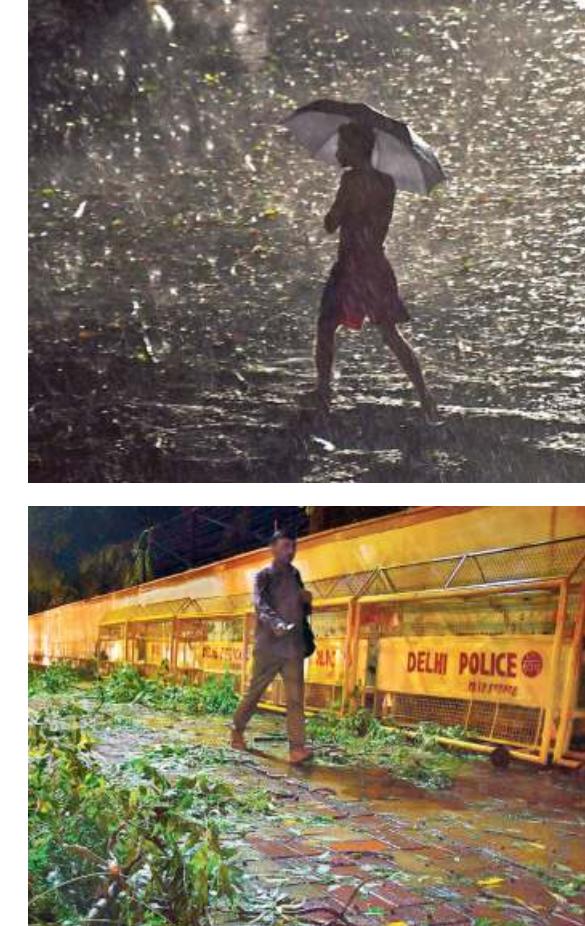
A common krait snake was rescued from the DDA flats in Malviya Nagar by the members of NGO Wildlife SOS.

The Wildlife SOS received a call from a Malviya Nagar resident around 9 p.m. on Wednesday. The caller said he had spotted a snake curled up behind a brick right next to the entrance to his house.

The NGO said that two snake-rescuers were rushed to the spot and the rescue operation was completed within 30 minutes.

"Not all phone calls end in successful captures or encounters. The snakes often disappear before help arrives. We have to be very sensitive about the time taken to arrive at the spot and carry out the rescue operation," a member of the rescue team said.

The common krait is found across most of India's mainland and is one of the four most venomous snakes in the country, members of the NGO also said.



## Caught off guard



Heavy rains accompanied by strong winds and hailstorm lashed the Capital on Thursday evening, bringing the temperature down by several notches. The maximum temperature recorded during the day was 34.8 degrees Celsius, one degree above normal, while the minimum was 23.8 degrees Celsius, two degrees above normal. The showers, however, managed to bring down the temperature to 25 degrees Celsius at 8 p.m. ■SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

## Court: recompute Delhi Judicial Services results

HC to communicate results by SMS, e-mail

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has accepted the challenge to nine out of 15 questions asked in the Delhi Judicial Services (preliminary) examinations and directed the Registrar General to recompute and publish the updated result by October 4.

The court said apart from placing the list of additional eligible candidates on the website by 6 p.m. on Friday, the High Court administration will communicate them by both SMS and e-mail of being qualified for writing the mains exam.

The court was hearing a batch of petitions by law graduates aspiring to be judicial officers, challenging the correctness of the answer keys to some of the questions in the Delhi Judicial Services (Preliminary) Exams which was held on September 22.

A Bench of Justices S. Muralidhar and Talwant Singh declined the prayer of the petitioners to postpone the date of mains exams, that is, October 12-13 as the HC has to adhere to the deadline given by it to the Supreme Court.

"In other words it is clarified that even the additional candidates found eligible as a result of the above exercise will have to necessarily



sit for the Mains exam on the dates already fixed, that is, October 12-13," the court said.

It directed that results of the 353 candidates already declared eligible to appear in the DJS (Mains) Exams, in terms of the list published on the high court's website on September 26, are left undisturbed.

One of the petitioners, Nishant Basoya, through advocate Nivesh Sharma, argued that the high court's move to not even invite objections to the result and to immediately proceed to schedule the Mains exams for DJS after declaring the cut-off was shocking.

The court noted that this time, the authorities have departed from the practice adopted earlier where before declaring the results of the DJS Preliminary Exams the answer keys would be published on the website of the high court and objections invited.

## Insurance firm told to pay ₹1.27 lakh compensation to accident victim

Medical slip only mentioned 'the smell of alcohol': consumer panel

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A district consumer disputes redressal forum here has directed the Tata AIG General Insurance Company to compensate a complainant by paying over ₹1.27 lakh after the insurance firm repudiated a claim on the grounds that the driver of the vehicle which met with an accident was under the influence of alcohol.

While taking note of the medical slip provided by the hospital where the driver was treated, the consumer panel observed that a claim cannot be repudiated based on a report which states that

"smell of alcohol was found."

"The question arises as to whether mere smell of alcohol from the mouth of the driver of the insured is enough to reject the claim. The answer is in the negative. In fact, a person can be understood to have been under the influence of liquor if a specific amount of alcohol is found in his blood at the time of accident making him unfit to be rational," the Bench observed while adding that the medical slip only mentioned "the smell of alcohol."

The directions came when the consumer panel was hearing a complaint

which challenged the repudiation of the claim by the insurance firm. The firm had contended that according to the terms mentioned in the policy which entailed that the company is not liable to make any payment if the driver is under the influence of intoxicating liquor or drugs.

While directing the insurance firm to compensate the complainant, consumer forum further observed, "There is also no evidence that the separate conditions were ever supplied to the insured either at the time of inception of the policy or at any time thereafter."

## DU teachers strike work against 'attack on service conditions'

They were against a circular which allows only guest appointments

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Teachers of Delhi University struck work on Thursday protesting against "continuous attack on service conditions". They were joined by students in a protest march through the university campus.

The protesters were against a recent circular by the university which allows only guest appointments against full-time regular vacancies, the Delhi University Teachers Association (DUTA) said.

"Replacement of full-time teachers by guest faculty, who are paid on per



Delhi University teachers staging a protest on the campus on Thursday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

lecture basis, will have major implications on the quality of teaching," the group said.

The teachers also protest

ed lack of promotions over the last 10 years, which they said had led to an "exodus of many teachers". Promotions of over 3,000 teachers are due for years now, the group claimed.

## Security stepped up in city after intelligence alert: police

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI



A Delhi police constable at a barricade on Mathura Road.

■ V.V. KRISHNAN

plan to carry out a terror strike.

Security agencies are also keeping an eye at crowded locations in view of the possible threat and festive season.

According to police, raids were conducted at over two dozen locations across the city to nab the suspects from their possible hideouts, including places like Okhla, Zafarbad, Najafgarh, Seemapuri, New Usmanpur, Seelampur, Jamia Nagar,

New Delhi Railway Station, Paharganj and areas of South Delhi, and have questioned numerous people.

The airport also got a general alert in view of the upcoming festivals.

"There is a general alert in view of upcoming festivals in airport and the security has been beefed up," said CISF sources.

Security agencies have been briefed to have hand held metal detectors, door framed metal detectors and CCTV installed at various points of the pandals.

which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir.

Delhi Police has intensified patrolling and picketing in several areas across the national capital as the city gears up for Durga Puja and Ramila to ensure safety and security of people, especially women.

The organisers have been briefed to have hand held metal detectors, door framed metal detectors and CCTV installed at various points of the pandals.

# Man robbed of phone and cash at gunpoint in Connaught Place

'Policeman told me not to mention about the gun in my complaint'

SAURABH TRIVEDI  
NEW DELHI

A man, who was robbed at gunpoint in Connaught Place on Wednesday night, alleged that after the incident a policeman told him to go home and file an e-FIR and not mention about any gun in the complaint if he wanted to get his phone back.

Abhijeet Priyankar, a CS student, had gone to Connaught Place for shopping. According to his complaint, he went to an ATM kiosk located next to Rivoli Cinema to withdraw some money. The moment he came out, a man deliberately hit Mr. Priyankar on the foot. When he raised an objection, the man

**The man robbed me of my phone and cash that I had withdrawn [from the ATM]. He then ran towards another man who was waiting on a white scooter. He sat pillion on the scooter and they sped off towards Bangla Sahib," said the victim.**

ABHIJEET PRIYANKAR  
Victim

allegedly started assaulting him. Mr. Priyankar tried to get hold of the man, but the latter took out a pistol and threatened to shoot him..

"The man robbed me of

my cellphone and cash that I had withdrawn. He then ran towards another man who was waiting on a white scooter. He sat pillion on the scooter and they sped off towards Bangla Sahib," said the victim.

**'Hard to believe'**

Mr. Priyankar said it was difficult for him to believe that he was robbed at Delhi's "safest and busiest place at 9 p.m.". "I had to leave for Patna to meet my parents on Thursday and before leaving I wanted to buy some items for my family members from Connaught Place... It was a nightmare for me," Mr. Priyankar said.

He said when he informed

a policeman patrolling in the area about the incident, he called another policeman to the spot. The second policeman allegedly asked him to go back home and file an e-FIR and told him not to mention about any pistol in the complaint if he wanted to get his mobile phone back.

"The policeman assured me of putting my mobile phone on surveillance to trace it. But I don't know why he told me not to mention about any gun in my complaint," said the victim.

DCP (New Delhi) Eish Singhal, meanwhile, said that he would check the status of the complainant with the Connaught Place police station.

## Man held for robbing people, holding them hostage and demanding ransom

He was also wanted in a kidnapping and sexual assault case

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A 24-year-old man, who used to call loan agents after getting numbers from online platforms to hold them hostage for ransom, has been arrested on Thursday, the police said on Thursday.

The accused has been identified as Shamim, a resident of Mewat district of Haryana. He was also wanted in a case of kidnapping and sexual assault in Mewat in which the victim was a minor, they said.

"On September 3, a Delhi-based loan commission agent was kidnapped from Gurugram. The accused had told him that he had some loan-related query and convinced him to meet. After robbing the victim, the accused called his family members and demanded a ransom of ₹10 lakh from them

which was later negotiated at ₹50,000," a senior police officer said.

The victim's family deposited ₹15,000 in his account which was withdrawn by the accused from an ATM kiosk in Mewat, the police said.

Just after the money was withdrawn, the victim was released, they said. On the complaint of the victim's wife, a case was registered at Gulabi Bagh in Delhi.

### Arrested from Jaipur

"During investigation, the police examined call detail records and CCTV footage after which they zeroed in on Shamim who was arrested from Jaipur," said DCP (North) Monika Bhardwaj.

During interrogation, Shamim said he was the mastermind of a gang. He, along with Haroon, Mazid, Sanir and Pandit, was involved in many such cases. They used the same modus operandi to extort money from different people in Mumbai, Agra, Jaipur and Delhi, Ms. Bhardwaj said.

### Online search

Shamim, along with his accomplices, used to call an online platform for services like business loan, car loan, lift installation. Thereafter, they used to contact the persons concerned and ask them to reach the outskirts of Gurugram, the police said. Once the victim reached, they used to take him hostage and call his family members for ransom after robbing him of his belongings, the DCP said.

Earlier, they had called two persons in Alwar in Rajasthan on the pretext of installation of a lift and robbed them.

The CBI on Thursday filed a chargesheet against three persons in connection with the Unnao gang-rape case.

The next court hearing had been fixed for October 10. The CBI plans to submit additional documents and a list of witnesses.

Those arraigned in the case are Naresh Tiwari, Brijesh Yadav Singh and Subham Singh. They have been accused of kidnapping and raping the victim about a week after she was sexually assaulted allegedly by expelled BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar.

It is alleged that the incident took place in June 2017 when the victim was a minor. The CBI has already filed a chargesheet against Mr. Sengar and others in another rape case.

A special court recently recorded the victim's statement in the case against Mr. Sengar and others.

She was seriously injured along with her lawyer, and her two aunts were killed, when a speeding truck collided with their car at Rae Bareli on July 28.

The victim was admitted to a Lucknow hospital, from where she was shifted to AIIMS. She was discharged from the hospital a few days ago. Based on the threat perception, the court has issued orders to make arrangements for the stay of the victim and her family in Delhi.

## Domestic help, husband, accomplice held for burglaries in south-east Delhi

They targeted locked houses; two more accused on the run

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A couple and their accomplice have been arrested for allegedly committing burglaries in south-east Delhi, the police said on Thursday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (South East) Chinmoy Biswal said that the accused have been identified as Mahmood alias Mamun (37), his wife Fatima (34) and their accomplice Mohammed Zakir alias Alamgir (35).

The police said that the woman used to work as a domestic help. She conducted recce before each burglary to pass the information to her husband and the other accused.

The police said that on September 29, they received an information regarding a burglary at a house in National Park Residential area in Lajpat Nagar. The complainant reported a theft of ₹50 lakh, diamond and gold jewellery and a high-end wrist watch among other valuables. Based on the complaint, a case was registered and an investigation was launched.

"CCTV footage of the



The accused in police custody. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

area were examined and the suspects were spotted leaving in an e-rickshaw," Mr. Biswal said.

During interrogation, the accused told the police that they would target locked houses during the day.

"Fatima used to pass the information to her husband and the other accused. They used to come to the locality in an e-rickshaw and enter the targeted house after breaking the door lock," Mr. Biswal said, adding that police teams are looking for two other accomplices who are absconding.

The police said that Mahmood and Zakir had been arrested earlier and were released in August. They are involved in several cases of burglary.

### IN BRIEF

Man held with 146 kg of illegal firecrackers

NEW DELHI  
A 32-year-old man, identified as Deepak, a resident of Mohan Garden, was arrested on Thursday and over 146 kg of illegal firecrackers were seized from his possession in Dwarka's Bindapur, the police said. He had kept the firecrackers hidden in Haryana and had brought them to the city in view of the festival season, he told the police.

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DEHLI METRO

## Holiday photo on FB lands robber in police net

Accused, 2 accomplices had executed robbery at Rohini shop to fund Shimla trip

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

He was traced to Shimla after the complaint, Mohit Singh, approached the police claiming that he and his uncle were robbed by three persons of ₹27,000. He alleged that the miscreants barged into their shop at Rohini Sector-3 and looted ₹23,000 from his uncle, ₹1,500 from him and around ₹2,500 from a locker at gunpoint.

The accused, Subham, along with a friend and an acquaintance, had executed the robbery on September 23 to finance the trip to Shimla, said the police on Thursday.

victims were closing the shop, the police said. Two men entered the shop while one stood outside. They started thrashing Mr. Singh and his uncle and took away the cash at gunpoint, a police officer said.

Subham, a resident of Pimpura, was arrested from Shimla. Efforts are being made to nab his associates," said Deputy Commissioner of Police (Rohini) S.D. Mishra.

During interrogation, the accused disclosed that they had planned and executed the crime to finance their sightseeing trip to Shimla, the officer said.

Subham was arrested earlier as well in a robbery case, the officer added.

Loot at gunpoint

The incident took place around 9.30 p.m. when the

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An Initiative of



# Online campaign to sensitise children about unity in diversity

Drive launched on Twitter in response to communal comments around festivals

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI

The #DurgaPuja4All campaign, which was started on Twitter in response to communal comments around festivals, in its fourth year is aiming to sensitise children about the importance of diversity and unity.

The campaign, started in 2015 to highlight the essence of Durga Puja being an inclusive festival, has over the years, moved from an online campaign to sponsoring a puja organised by a minority community, in a red light area in Kolkata that promotes the idea that the festival "welcomes all".

"The idea behind the campaign was to let everyone know that our puja has no restrictions and it is a time when everybody can



**C** The idea is to reach out to children and tell them that diversity is important. We were agonised with reports which said that school-going children were calling names to other kids based on communal lines

**PRIYASHMITA GUHA**  
Campaign team member

celebrate irrespective of their respective religion and communities," said Priyashmita Guha, one of the core members of the campaign team.

As a part of the campaign this year, an art competition and workshops will be organised for schoolchildren in Noida on Sunday. Similar competitions were also conducted in Kolkata, the or-

ganisers said.

"The idea behind this is to reach out to children and tell them that diversity is important. We were agonised with reports which said that school-going children are calling names to other kids based on communal lines. It is important

that they know the importance of multicultural society that we live in," said Ms. Guha.

The campaign which was initially spearheaded by 17 individuals from various walks of life, now has 13 active members and several other members who make contributions towards it from across the globe.

"Durga puja has always been called 'sarbojonin' which means for all. So it is not really a new concept to us and that is what we wanted to communicate to everyone through this campaign. We use this forum, without making any political statement, to say that inclusivity is an inherent part of us and this is how we have been brought up," added Ms. Guha.

## Installation of RFID systems proposed at 10 more border points

Over 50,000 vehicles pass through them, find surveys

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI

Surveys carried out at 10 more border points where setting up of RFID systems have been proposed as part of the second phase of the exercise, stated that over 50,000 vehicles pass through the said points.

Following the implementation of Supreme Court-mandated RFID systems at 13 border points in Delhi, where authorities say 80% of the traffic passes through, similar systems are planned at 10 more points in the next phase, a senior official said.

**New points**  
The new systems are planned at Noida Major, Loni Main, Dhansa Border,

Kundli-II, New Seemapuri, Bajghera, New Kondli, Chander Nagar, Jharoda, Puk Pralhadhpur.

Out of 124 identified entrance points into the city, these 10 were selected based on traffic surveys which showed up to 49,268 vehicles, excluding commercial taxis, pass through them.

**15% of traffic**  
The traffic here accounts for about 15% of the traffic that enters the city, the official said. For the rest of the border points, hand-held systems to check RFID tags have been planned, the official added.

The RFID systems were set up to improve the effec-

tiveness of tax and ECC collection and to ensure restriction of vehicles that are over 10 years old and are banned from entering the city, and to reduce the number of vehicles which are only passing through the city, thus targeting emissions from such vehicles.

The project, being carried out by the South Delhi Municipal Corporation, is monitored by the Supreme Court-appointed Environmental Protection Control Authority.

According to data from the south civic body, about 44% of the total amount collected from the 13 border points is collected through RFID tags, while the rest is still being collected by cash.

## South body declares one more market plastic-free

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI

The South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) on Thursday declared another fruit and vegetable market "plastic-free." The market at Possangipur is the eighth one to be declared free from plastic.

Having started with the vegetable market at Tagore Garden, the civic body plans to declare at least 20 such markets plastic-free.

In a statement, Deputy Commissioner, Shirish Sharma said, "The SDMC is setting an example by achieving single-use plastic free status for its markets."

In its efforts, the SDMC has been carrying out information campaigns on the ill-effects of single-use plastic and has been promoting the use of alternatives such as cloth bags. Shopkeepers have also been urged to put up boards informing customers to carry their own bags, said nodal officer of the campaign, Rajiv Jain.

These markets are being targeted because getting such vendors to switch to non-plastic bags was thought to be harder, said Mr. Jain.

## Heads-up



A sign outside a blind school on Mathura Road where an event has been organised. ■ V.V. KRISHNAN

## Priyanka remembers Rita as 'intelligent creature'

India's 'oldest' chimpanzee died on Oct. 1

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi on Thursday remembered Rita, a 59-year-old Chimpanzee at the Delhi zoo which died on Tuesday, as the "most beautiful and intelligent creature ever".

"When I was a kid, my father was gifted a lion that stayed in our home for a bit before being gifted to the zoo. I used to visit the lion every few days and happened to make friends with Rita, who would be waiting for her check-up with the

zoo vet. She was the gentlest, most beautiful and intelligent creature ever. R.I.P old friend (sic)," Ms. Gandhi said in a tweet.

Rita, India's "oldest" chimpanzee, died at the Delhi zoo on Tuesday afternoon following multiple organ failure, according to zoo officials.

Rita was born at a zoo in Amsterdam in 1960 and was acquired by the National Zoological Park here in 1964. Since July 27, the chimpanzee had been consuming only fruit juice, milk and water.

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These markets are being targeted because getting such vendors to switch to non-plastic bags was thought to be harder, said Mr. Jain.

## Three wanted criminals arrested after shoot-out

They carried ₹25,000 bounty each

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI

A 29-year-old wanted criminal, Saddam Gauri, and two of his accomplices were arrested following a shootout in Meerut on Thursday, the police said, adding that all three sustained bullet injuries on their legs.

DCP (Special Cell) Pradeep Singh Kushwah said that Gauri, Usman and Dalip were arrested after an exchange of fire in Meerut.

The arrested accused were carrying a bounty of ₹25,000 each on their arrest, declared by the Meerut police.

## Ticket distribution in south Haryana causes resentment

BJP denies tickets to 7 MLAs; Cong. leader unhappy over selection of candidates

**ASHOK KUMAR**  
GURUGRAM

The ticket distribution by the BJP and the Congress in south Haryana for the upcoming Assembly election has caused a lot of resentment, heartburn and in some cases even open rebellion among the party workers and leaders. The BJP has denied tickets to seven of its 11 MLAs, including a Minister, in the region comprising Gurugram, Mewat, Rewari and Mahendergarh districts.

Releasing the list of candidates for the remaining 12 Assembly seats, including Gurugram, Rewari and Kosli in south Haryana, late on Wednesday night, the BJP denied tickets to all the three sitting MLAs.

**Surprising exclusion**  
The most surprising exclusion was Haryana PWD Minister Rao Narbir Singh, a Badshahpur MLA, considered close to Chief Minister



Capt. Ajay Yadav said tickets were given to defectors and non-Congressmen. ■

Manohar Lal Khattar. Though Mr. Narbir's name did not figure in the first list of 78 candidates, it was expected that he could be fielded from Rewari or Kosli. However, sources said that Mr. Narbir's tense relation with Union Minister and local MP Rao Inderjit Singh had cost him his seat.

Gurugram MLA Umesh Aggarwal, who had led a rebellion against Mr. Khattar in 2016, also lost the ticket. He

was replaced by Sudhir Singla. Expressing his resentment, Mr. Aggarwal, in a tweet on Thursday, in an obvious reference to Mr. Khattar, said a few throats were cut and more would be cut.

Similarly, Kosli MLA Bikram Thakedar and Rewari MLA Randhir Singh Kapri were replaced by Laxman Yadav and Sunil Mupur.

Infuriated over the denial of ticket, Mr. Kapri was said the party had succumbed to the demands of Mr. Inderjit Singh to deny ticket to him and other loyal Congress workers. He said the party would have to pay for it. Mr. Yadav and Mr. Mupur are both considered close to Mr. Inderjit Singh.

Though ticket was denied to Mr. Inderjit Singh's daughter Arti Rao Singh from Rewari and all his supporters seeking tickets were not accommodated to cut him to size, the party, in a balancing act, gave tickets to

four-five of his supporters.

Political analysts said the denial of tickets to its sitting MLAs in Badshahpur, Gurugram, Pataudi, Rewari and Kosli could hurt the party. Also, the party offering cold shoulder to Mr. Inderjit Singh over ticket to his daughter and supporters could prove harmful.

Senior Congress leader and former Haryana Finance Minister Capt. Ajay Yadav, who unsuccessfully contested Gurugram Lok Sabha election this year, said the candidates for six of the nine Assembly seats falling in the Lok Sabha constituency were undeserving. He said the tickets were given to "defectors, turn-coats and non-Congressmen" who had openly opposed him in Lok Sabha election.

Unhappy over ticket distribution, several Congress leaders in Punjiana Assembly constituency also quit the party.

## Hoax bomb threat triggers panic at KV

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI

A hoax bomb threat triggered panic at Kendriya Vidyalaya in Gole market on Thursday, prompting authorities to vacate the school campus, the police said.

A teacher had received an SMS that a bomb was planted in the school.

"A complaint was received from one of the school teachers that he received an SMS from an unidentified number that a bomb has been placed in the school," a police official said.

Police and bomb disposal squad personnel reached the spot immediately. "Students and staff were moved out and the entire school premises was checked thoroughly. However, no bomb was found," a police official said.

## Delhi Metro Grey Line to open today

It will link urban villages of Najafgarh to rapid transit network

said.

The flagging-off ceremony is slated to take place at Metro Bhawan at 12.15 p.m. and passenger services on the section shall commence from 5 p.m., said Anuj Dayal, executive director (corporate communication) of DMRC.

Total of 274 stations

With the opening of this section, the Delhi Metro network will expand to 377 km with 274 stations, including the Noida-Greater Noida Aqua Line.

"The Grey Line is a standard-gauge section and out of the 4.295 km, 2.57 km is elevated and 1.5 km under-

ground. With the opening of this section, the Dwarka metro station is all set to emerge as an interchange facility that will connect the sub-city with the locality of Najafgarh," Mr. Dayal said.

Commissioner of Metro Rail Safety (CMRS) Janak Kumar Garg had accorded the mandatory approval for starting passenger operations on Wednesday.

Mr. Dayal said a peak hour frequency of 7 minutes and 30 seconds shall be maintained on this stretch. The total travel time on this section shall be 6 minutes and 20 seconds.

## Khadi store in CP makes record sale of ₹1.27 crore

Shop broke its own record of ₹1.25 cr.

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI

"Not only that, nearly all Khadi India showrooms across the Capital remained capacity-crowded till late evening on Gandhi Jayanti. Altogether 16,870 Khadi-lovers visited the store at Connaught Place on Wednesday.

**2,720 sales bills**  
"Total number of 2,720 sales bills were issued on Wednesday. The first bill was issued at 9.48 a.m. and the last customer made the payment at 9.46 p.m. Out of over ₹127.57 lakh sale, the share of Khadi was ₹114.11 lakh and village industry products ₹13.46 lakh," Saxena said.

In 2018, this store recorded sale of over ₹1 crore on four occasions, KVIC said.

## Sampurn Ramayana comes to city in Broadway theatrical style

Technology, tradition come together to create magic on stage

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI

Much to the delight of the audiences this festival season, Aryan Heritage Foundations is presenting Sampurn Ramayana, a three-hour-long composition, in Broadway theatrical style.

The event, which is into its fifth year, is being performed every evening at 7 p.m. at Netaji Subhash Place, Pitampura, till October 7. The organisers are using technology to present the life events of Lord Ram since his birth.

They said this year massive LED screens are being used to create a visual treat for the audience. Also, new vibrant costumes have been

designed for a much larger group of artistes and a few new soundtracks have been added to the original that includes the voices of Udit Narayan and Kailash Kher. The show is being performed by over 120 professional actors and dancers from the National School of Drama.

### Movie-like experience

Apart from 16 original soundtracks, that is a fusion of Indian and Western music. The performance is spread over a big stage of 180 feet, and six sub-stages to ensure an uninterrupted movie-like experience.

The show's objective is to contribute to the making of a generation that is driven by strong principles. Given

**E-TENDER NOTICE**

e-tender Notice No. 52 of 2019-20 (Open)-Engg/MGS

On line (through e-tendering) for the following work is invited by DRMs/Engg/MGS for and on behalf of the President of India from experienced and financially as well as technically sound contractors including those enlisted with the Railway, CPWD, BSNL, MES, PWD and other public sector undertakings.

(1) Tender No.19-MGS-Sr.DEN-III-19-20 :

Name of Work with its location: Provision of anti flood majors like de-watering system , cover shed etc. at newly constructed LHS/RUB No.37, 39 & 43 in BD section under ADEN/JPL.. Approx. cost of the work: ₹ 9964774.29 Earnest Money: ₹199300.00

(2) Tender No.19-MGS-Sr.DEN-III-19-20 :

Name of Work with its location: Provision of anti flood majors like de-watering system , cover shed etc. at newly constructed LHS/RUB No.13, 31 & 35 in BD section under ADEN/JPL.. Approx. cost of the work: ₹ 9936184.81 Earnest Money: ₹198700.00

(3) Tender No.21-MGS-Sr.DEN-III-19-20 :

Name of Work with its location: Construction of RCC tank 5000 gallon with deep tube well at BSYA Development of infrastructure and coal transportation system at BSYA station in connection with the Nabinagar STTP(3x60 MW) on Deposit terms under ADEN/JPL.. Approx. cost of the work: ₹ 11440425.70 Earnest Money: ₹207200.00

<b>DELHI</b>	<b>Timings</b>
FRIDAY, OCT. 4	
RISE 06:15 SET 18:04	
RISE 11:55 SET 22:35	
SATURDAY, OCT. 5	
RISE 06:16 SET 18:03	
RISE 12:51 SET 23:27	
SUNDAY, OCT. 6	
RISE 06:16 SET 18:02	
RISE 13:43 SET 00:00	

<b>Delhi Weather</b>	max min
Delhi City	35 24
Safdarjung	35 24
Palam	36 23

**Delhi Palam Today**  
35°C A pleasant and hazy morning. Day will be warm with cloudy sky.

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow**  
35°C Dry weather with hazy and pleasant morning. Day will be warm.

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**Seven dead,  
30 hurt as bus  
falls into river**

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**

Seven persons died and over 30 were injured after a private bus fell into a flooded river in Madhya Pradesh's Raisen district in the wee hours of Thursday.

The bus was apparently speeding and the driver lost control while it was passing over a bridge, the police said.

Chief Minister Kamal Nath expressed grief over the incident, and announced aid of ₹4 lakh for the kin of each deceased.

The Chhattarpur-bound bus, which had started from Indore, fell into the Richhan river, about 40 km from the State capital Bhopal, around 1.30 a.m., said SP Monika Shukla.

The river was in spate following continuous rains.

"Five bodies were recovered in the night. The body of another person was recovered this morning, while one of the injured person died during treatment in Bhopal, taking the toll to seven," Ms. Shukla said.

# Cong. MP hits out at 'politicians' welcoming relief for Rajoana

They have stooped to lowest level for petty gains, says Beant Singh's grandson

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

CHANDIGARH



Congress MP Ravneet Singh Bittu, the grandson of slain former Punjab Chief Minister Beant Singh, on Thursday hit out at "politicians" who welcomed the Centre's move to commute Balwant Singh Rajoana's death sentence to life imprisonment.

Mr. Bittu said a few politicians are terming the development as "applying balm to the wounds of Sikhs", which clearly shows their "petty mindset".

**'Clarify stand'**  
"They [politicians speaking in support of Rajoana] should clarify whether Sikhs or Punjabis are terrorists," said Mr. Bittu.

He said during the days of militancy in Punjab, people

themselves have come through the same electoral process, which people like Rajoana strongly opposed," said the Ludhiana MP.

**'Supporting Khalistanis'**  
Mr. Bittu said the Narendra Modi-led government and its alliance partner Shiromani Akali Dal have "stooped to the lowest level for petty political gains".

"On one side, the Punjab police are working hard to bust several terror modules in the State, and on the other, the Union government at the behest of the Akalis are patronising Khalistanis as well as the extremists who created havoc during the dark days of terrorism in Punjab," he alleged.

Mr. Bittu said he would continue his fight against pe-

ople like Rajoana because he would not let anyone disrupt the hard-earned peace and communal harmony in Punjab.

Rajoana, a member of banned terror group Babbar Khalsa International, was awarded the death sentence for the assassination of Beant Singh.

**Execution stayed**

He was to be hanged on March 31, 2012, but the Centre stayed the execution after the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee submitted a mercy petition to the President.

The decision to commute the death sentence to life imprisonment comes weeks ahead of the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev.

## HC dismisses plea challenging cancellation of 'atheist' certificate

No need in law to be issued a certificate to such effect

**VIKAS VASUDEVA**  
CHANDIGARH

The Punjab and Haryana High Court has dismissed a petition of a youth from Haryana who challenged the cancellation of his "atheist" certificate by the State government after it had been issued to him by a local official earlier.

Justice Tejinder Singh Dhindsa, while dismissing the petition, observed that if the petitioner has chosen a path of an atheist and doesn't believe in any caste or class, there would be no requirement in law for him to be issued a certificate to such effect.

The court held that undoubtedly, the freedom of

conscience under Article 25 of the Constitution encompasses in itself a freedom to an individual to take a view that he does not belong to any religion.

**Individual rights**

"The freedom conferred by Article 25 of the Constitution would also include a right of an individual to claim that he is an 'atheist'. Just as a freedom of conscience confers a fundamental right to a citizen to entertain a particular religious belief, it equally confers a right on any other individual-citizen to express an opinion that he does not belong to any religion," said the court.

The court said that even if any such certificate had been issued by the Naib Tehsildar concerned and the same was subsequently cancelled, it would be of no consequence.

## Sacked BSF constable to contest against Haryana CM

'The fight is against corruption and unemployment'

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

CHANDIGARH



Constable Tej Bahadur Yadav, who was in 2017 sacked from the Border Security Force after he uploaded a video on a social media site complaining about the food served to the troops, will contest against Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar as the Jannayak Janata Party's candidate for the Karnal Assembly constituency.

The JJP on Thursday announced another list of 35 candidates.

"Me and my party's fight is against the corruption in the country and in Haryana. I am ready to take the challenge to fight the ruling BJP, and hence the party has decided to field me against Manohar Lal Khattar," said Mr. Yadav, who hails from Mahaendargarh district. He would file his nomination on

former Union Minister Birinder Singh. In 2014 too, he had contested from the same seat as an Indian National Lok Dal candidate but lost to Ms. Prem Lata.

Mr. Dushyant's mother and Dabwali MLA Naina Chautala has been shifted to the Badhra constituency in Charkhi Dadri district, where she will take on BJP incumbent Sukhwinder Sheoran and Congress' Ranbir Mahendra.

The JJP's list of candidates declared so far include former MLA Arjun Singh from Jagadhri and Ishwar Palaka from Shahbad. O.P. Sihag is the candidate from Ellendab against INLD senior leader Abhay Chautala.

The JJP – breakaway outfit of the INLD – announced that it would contest all the seats after its seat-sharing talks with the Bahujan Samaj Party had failed.

He said the RAJFED, would shortly construct new warehouses.

## Buffer stock of fertilizers for rabi crops

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

JAIPUR

With the diversification of their operations, the cooperative societies in Rajasthan have started creating a buffer stock of chemical fertilizers for rabi crops this year. The Rajasthan State Cooperative Marketing Federation (RAJFED) has also launched new measures for agricultural subsidy and formation of self-help groups.

Naresh Pal Gangwar, Principal Secretary, Cooperative Department, said here on Thursday that 2 lakh metric tonnes of urea and 1 lakh metric tonnes of diammonium phosphate would be stored for timely supply to farmers. The fertilisers were being procured from Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative, Indian Potash Limited and Krishak Bharati Cooperative.

He said the RAJFED, would shortly construct new warehouses.

## No HC relief for owners of polluting brick kilns

Punjab government had fixed Sept. 30 deadline for switching to new technology

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

CHANDIGARH

The Punjab and Haryana High Court has rejected a plea for protection to brick kiln owners who had failed to switch to the newly mandated emissions technology across the State.

The Punjab government had issued orders directing that all brick kiln owners convert their polluting units to new norms by September 30, beyond which no conventional brick kilns would

be allowed to operate.

Several brick kiln owners had approached the court against the State government's orders and directives, arguing that these were in compliance with the guidelines of the Central Pollution Control Board, various circulars of the Punjab Pollution Control Board as well as orders passed by the National Green Tribunal dated January 22, 2019.

**CPCB guidelines**  
In the previous hearing on October 1, Punjab Advocate General Atul Nanda had

placed before the court details of the State government's orders and directives, arguing that these were in compliance with the guidelines of the Central Pollution Control Board, various circulars of the Punjab Pollution Control Board as well as orders passed by the National Green Tribunal dated January 22, 2019.

In their petition, brick kiln owners stated that they were in the process of converting to the new technology but it was taking time due to lack of trained persons.

the new technology will be required to pay compensation on the 'polluter pays' principle, amounting to ₹25,000 per month for a kiln with a capacity of more than 30,000 bricks per day and ₹20,000 per month for kilns with a capacity of less than 30,000 bricks per day.

In their petition, brick kiln owners stated that they were in the process of converting to the new technology but it was taking time due to lack of trained persons.

General Public is hereby informed that one person namely Hari Singh, S/o Ganga Shah, R/o H. No. 77/34, Circular Road, Janta Colony, Shahdara, Delhi, Age: 54 years, Height: 5' 10", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Built: Fat, Identification: "Mentally Weak", Wearing: Yellow colour Kurta & Lungi, has been missing since dated 02.09.2019 from the area of PS Vivek Vihar, Delhi. In this regard a case vide DD No. 34A dated 10.09.2019 has been lodged at PS Vivek Vihar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the person but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this person please inform undersigned.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>  
E-mail Id - [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
Phone: 011-24368638, 24368641  
Fax No. 011-24368639  
DP/1229/SHD/19

PS Vivek Vihar, Delhi  
Ph.: 011-22146040,  
7065036021

## Setback for BSP as members in Saharanpur switch to BJP

Move comes ahead of Gangoh Assembly bypoll on Oct. 21

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
GHAZIABAD

In a setback to the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) in western Uttar Pradesh, almost all the senior members of the party in Saharanpur have switched to the BJP. The move comes ahead of the Gangoh Assembly bypoll on October 21.

Rajoana, a member of banned terror group Babbar Khalsa International, was awarded the death sentence for the assassination of Beant Singh.

**Execution stayed**  
He was to be hanged on March 31, 2012, but the Centre stayed the execution after the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee submitted a mercy petition to the President.

The decision to commute the death sentence to life imprisonment comes weeks ahead of the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev.

According to sources, the selection of Irshad Choudhary as the BSP candidate in a constituency where there is significant Dalit population did not go down well with the party workers.

The Gangoh seat fell vacant after sitting BJP MLA Pradeep Chaudhary was elected from Kairana to the Lok Sabha earlier this year.

**'Not affect prospects'**  
Putting up a brave front, BSP leader Ranvir Singh Kashyap said it would not affect the prospects of the party in the coming bypoll.

"Candidates are decided by Behenji [Mayawati] and nobody could question her choice. In the past, many seniors leaders have left the party, but it didn't create any impact. This happens because of factional politics at the district level and the par-

ty would look into it," he added.

Senior BJP leader and former MLA from Saharanpur Rajiv Gumber told *The Hindu* that the development indicated the diminishing base of the BSP in the region. "Though the BSP supported us on dilution of Article 370, the local population is not happy with its stand on the Ram temple. Their leaders are not being able to defend the party stand."

On how it will affect the grassroots workers of the party, which was once known to accept workers on the basis of their ideology, Mr. Gumber said he would not make any comment on the decision of the party leadership.

"What I can say is that the party always keeps in mind the interests of its grassroots workers."

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SAGAR

A one-and-a-half-year-old boy died after being hit with a stick by his neighbour whose son had urinated in the open, leading to an argument between the two families here in Madhya Pradesh, police said on Thursday.

The incident occurred on Tuesday evening in Baganpur village under the Bhangarh Police Station area.

The accused, Ram Singh and his 20-year-old son Umesh, have been arrested, police said.

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Office of The City Magistrate/ Marriage Officer Gautambudh Nagar No. 2004 / ST-CM (Marriage Registration) 2019 Date : 20 September, 2019

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A notice of intended marriage has been received from Mr. Kushal Abrol S/o Mr. Punit Kumar Abrol R/o 105, Sector-12A, Panchkula - 134112 (Haryana) and Ms. Pankhuri Pilania D/o Mr. Mahesh Kumar Pilania R/o C-78, Sector - 33 Noida Dist. Gautam Budh Nagar (U.P.) in the office of the undersigned,any person interested therein, may file objections to it on any day upto 15-10-2019 in the office of the undersigned.

Marriage Officer

Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar (U.P.)

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"This is to inform General Public that my client Smt. Jamuna Devi wife of Late Ram Avtar R/o D-166, GF, Khasa No. 211094, has deserted her Son Suraj Prakash and his wife Monika Prakash for their misconduct and behavior from all movable and immovable property. Any one dealing with them should do so at their costs and risk. My client will not be responsible in any manner".

Shahrukh Khan (Advocate)

Chh.No.196, Civil Wing, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-54

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My Client Shohid Khan S/o Late Sh. Om Prakash Khanha R/o 719, Block-I, Palan-1, Pahar Ganj-122001, New Delhi-110025 to be known as Mohd Shahid Hussain for All Purpose.

I Seema Husain w/o Mohd Shahid Hussain r/o 747 sector 8 Jasola Vihar New Delhi 110025 to be known as Seema Hussain for All Purpose.

I Hitherto known as Jay Bhagwan S/o Sh. Rohtash V.P.O. Gorakhpur Baghat U.P. Have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Jay Bhagwan Kagra

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I Hitherto known as Jay Bhagwan S/o Sh. Rohtash V.P.O. Gorakhpur Baghat U.P. Have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Jay Bhagwan Kagra

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# 'Sufficient prima facie material against Sudha Bharadwaj'

Documents, CDR add up to corroborative evidence, says Pune Police

SONAM SAIGAL  
MUMBAI

The Pune police on Thursday submitted before the Bombay High Court that there is sufficient prima facie material to charge lawyer and trade unionist Sudha Bharadwaj under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) for her alleged role in the Bhima Koregaon violence.

Arguing before a single Bench of Justice S.V. Kotwal, additional public prosecutor Aruna Pai opposed Ms. Bharadwaj's bail and yet again relied upon documents from another accused Roma Wilson's laptop and call detail records (CDR) to say all of it added up as "corroborative evidence".

She said they also show that Ms. Bharadwaj, vice-pre-



Sudha Bharadwaj.

sident of Indian Association of People's Lawyers (IAPL) along with another accused Prof Shoma Sen were part of a special women's meeting at Hyderabad.

The court however pointed out that the CDR has shown that she was in Faridabad. Ms. Pai then said, "it does not connect to the present applica-

tion [by Ms. Bharadwaj] in anyway." Ms. Pai then said, "there is no direct connection".

Ms. Pai also read out another letter recovered from Mr. Wilson's laptop, and quoted, "we need to come up with a proposal for initiating an All-India Anti-Fascist Front by strengthening Dalits and Muslim forces from Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Kerala and Maharashtra."

Ms. Pai also began her arguments opposing activist Arun Ferreira's bail and said there is material against him to charge him under the UAPA for being a member of a banned organisation, for recruiting cadres, collecting funds and aiding and abetting. She will conclude her arguments on October 4.

She mentioned a letter recovered from Mr. Gadling's computer that was on the letter head of CPI-M. When she read out another letter which was focusing on AGMC, the court said, "it does not connect to the present applica-

Cong. names  
37 candidates,  
NCP 20

STAFF REPORTER  
MUMBAI

The Congress finalised names of 37 candidates on Thursday while the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) released its second list of 20 candidates for the October 21 Assembly elections.

Former Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA, now with Congress, Ashish Deshmukh will take on Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis in Nagpur South West constituency. The party has also changed candidates for Nandurbar (ST) and Sillod in Aurangabad.

Mr. Deshmukh, son of former senior Congress leader Ranjeet Deshmukh, had contested as BJP candidate from Katol in 2014 and defeated his uncle Anil Deshmukh (NCP). He however resigned before Lok Sabha polls and joined Congress.

Apart from Malad west, the Congress has named candidates in seven other constituencies in Mumbai – Ghatkopar east, Ghatkopar west, Versova, Kalina, Bandra west, Wadala and Byculla. Senior party corporator Asif Jakeriya will contest from Bandra west, former corporator George Abraham (Kalina), Baldev Khosa (Versova) and Anand Shukla (Ghatkopar west).

## Lok Sabha bypoll: ex-Sikkim governor pitted against NCP's royal turncoat

NCP chooses Shriniwas Patil after Prithviraj Chavan decides to focus on Assembly

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE  
PUNE



NCP candidate Shriniwas Patil.



Udayanraje Bhosale, BJP candidate from Satara.

stead to focus on the Assembly elections.

Mr. Patil has been elected MP twice, in 1999 and 2004, from the erstwhile Karad Lok Sabha constituency in Satara before its delimitation ahead of the 2009 polls.

Political equations have changed overnight in Satara, which was completely domi-

nated by the NCP before this year's Lok Sabha polls after the defections of both royal boys – Shivendrasinh Bhosale, the former NCP MLA from Satara and Udayanraje Bhosale, the ex-NCP MP from Satara Lok Sabha constituency – to the ruling BJP.

The NCP currently holds three of the six Assembly

## Bhosale declares assets worth ₹170 cr.

SHARAD VYAS  
MUMBAI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate from Satara for the Lok Sabha bypolls, Udayanraje Bhosale, has declared assets worth ₹170 crore. A former Nationalist Congress Party MP from the constituency, Mr. Bhosale

had announced his entry into the BJP last month. He filed his nominations this week, after his name featured in the party's first list of candidates.

The declared assets include five cars – two Mercedes-Benz (one with number 007), a Ford Endeavour,

an Audi, a Maruti Gypsy and a Volkswagen Polo (belonging to his wife). He also declared jewellery worth ₹1.5 crore, among other movable and immovable assets. Mr. Bhosale was the richest candidate in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls with declared assets worth ₹199 crore.

Mr. Chavan too filed his nomination today, accompanied by Mr. Patil and other supporters. He is pitted against the BJP's Atul Bhosale, who staged a spectacular show of strength in Karad before filing his nomination.

"Our aim is to weed out the BJP's socially divisive policies. Karad has been the wellspring of progressive thought. I am confident that the people here will reject the regressive ideology of the current government in the upcoming elections," Mr. Chavan said.

## Confusing the predator



Staying safe: Villagers of Fetri and Bargaon, near Bor forest, wear tiger masks before farming. The Forest Department has distributed around 300 such masks to prevent any attacks as it is believed that tigers attack from behind. ■ SUDARSHAN

## Ex-MBMC mayor, 19 others booked for assault

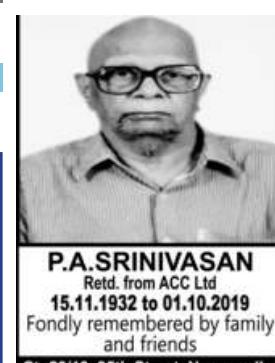
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
THANE

Former mayor of the Mira Bhayander Municipal Corporation (MBMC), Geeta Jain, and her 10 bodyguards, who were booked for allegedly manhandling the organisers of a Navaratri event in the township and creating a ruckus, police said on Thursday.

According to officials from the Naya Nagar police station, where the offence was registered, the incident occurred on Wednesday night during an event in Shanti Nagar, where the current mayor of Mira Bhayander, Dimple Mehta, was being felicitated. "During the function, just as Ms. Mehta was being felicitated, Ms. Jain arrived with her followers and 10 bodyguards," Deputy Superintendent of Police, Mira Road Division, Shantaram Valvi, said. Ms. Jain demanded that she also be felicitated at the event. "Her bodyguards and supporters then went on to the stage and manhandled the organisers," Mr. Valvi said.

## OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

### DEATH



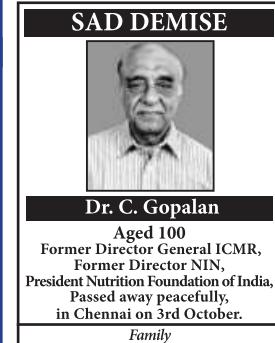
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Note: Submission of tender fee/ EMD will not be accepted by courier/ Regd. Post. Further details can be seen on website <http://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in> & <http://www.jbvnli.co.in>. Contact person Mobile No. are 9431708983, NJC HelpLine No. is 0651-2400178.

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3. The complete BID document can be viewed / downloaded from official portal of MoRTH or e-procurement portal of MoRTHB (<https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>) from 11.10.2019 (17.00 Hrs IST) to 25.11.2019 (upto 11.00 Hrs. IST). Bidder must submit its Financial bid and Technical Bid at <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> or before (25.11.2019 upto 17.00 Hrs IST). Bids received online shall be opened on 26.11.2019 (at 15.00 Hrs IST).

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Executive Engineer  
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Sr. No.	Description	Estimated Cost	Bid security	Time	Cost of Bid
1.	Engineering, Procurement, Construction, Testing, Commissioning, Trial Run of various components of LWSS to Rakhol, Chothra, Awahdevi, Tihra and its adjoining villages in Tehsil Dharanpur District Mandi (HP) under Jal Jeevan Mission (Har Ghar Na Se Jai) in single package on "turn-key basis" including trial run, defect and liability period as 3 months after physical completion of all components scheme including SOP connection as certified by Engineer-in-Charge of the entire scheme	Rupees 2,16,67,344/-	Rupees 2,49,200/-	Nine months (including all seasons but excluding trial run period of 3 months)	Rupees 2500/-
2.	Engineering, procurement, construction, testing, commissioning, trial run of various components of LWSS to PC habitation of Kot Dhawali and Bahr, Rathoun and Chakayon in Tehsil Dharanpur District Mandi HP under Jal Jeevan Mission (Har Ghar Na Se Jai) in single package on "Turn-key basis" including trial & testing run, defect and liability period as 03 months after physical completion of all components of the scheme, including SOP connection as certified by Engineer-in-Charge of the entire scheme.	Rupees 2,11,34,606/-	Rupees 2,43,900/-	Nine months (including all seasons but excluding trial run period of 03 months)	Rupees 2500/-
1. KEY DATES SHALL BE AS UNDER:-					
a.	Date of online publication	01-10-2019			
b.	Downloading of e-bid Documents	From 01-10-2019 at 1800 Hrs IST (GMT + 5:30 Hrs) to 17-10-2019 at 1700 Hrs IST (GMT + 5:30 Hrs).			
c.	Date of submission of e-bid	From 01-10-2019 at 1800 Hrs IST (GMT + 5:30 Hrs) to 17-10-2019 at 1700 Hrs IST (GMT + 5:30 Hrs).			
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## IN BRIEF



## YSR Vahana Mitra scheme to be launched

VIAJAWADA  
Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy will launch the YSR Vahana Mitra scheme at Eluru on Friday. He will distribute ₹10,000 as assistance to auto, taxi and maxi driver-cum-owners. It can be used to pay insurance and licence fee and other expenses.

## Karnataka to divert funds for flood relief

BENGALURU  
With the Centre yet to release funds for flood relief and the State not being able to garner resources, the Karnataka government has decided to divert funds allocated for various projects, including the steel flyover in Bengaluru (now shelved), for providing relief to flood-affected people in different parts of the State.

## Karnataka considering NRC: Minister

We are discussing the issue with Union Home Ministry and will take a call, says Bommai

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU  
Karnataka on Thursday became the latest to join the list of States that are keen on implementing a National Register of Citizens (NRC), like in Assam.

Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai said that Karnataka was seriously considering a NRC. "We are one of the States where people from across the border have come and settled down. We are discussing the issue with the Union Home Ministry and will take a call," he said.

## Criminal activities

The Minister said a large number of people had come from other countries, particularly Bangladesh, and settled in Bengaluru and other cities in the State. "Some of the immigrants have even been involved in criminal and illegal activities. This has come to our notice," he said.



**Huge influx:** The Home Minister says workers had come from other countries, particularly Bangladesh, to the State. Picture shows migrant labourers in Hassan. • V. SREENIVASA MURTHY

"After discussing the pros and cons, we will take up the issue of NRC with the Union Home Ministry," he said.

Karnataka's proposal

comes close on the heels of Union Home Minister Amit Shah's pitch for a NRC across the country.

The State governments in

Uttarakhand, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand, all led by the BJP, have expressed interest in implementing NRC.

Sources said a review meeting on foreign nationals involved in crime in the State was indeed held, and directions had been issued to speed up the process of deporting them to their home countries.

"However, this does not pertain to only Bangladeshis but to African nationals and those from other countries as well," said an officer.

## KCR govt. to allot liquor shops afresh

Few changes made in Telangana policy

## N. RAHUL

HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has notified fresh allotment of liquor shops by issue of licences for the next two years with a few changes in the policy.

The government, headed by Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao, has invited applications from prospective licence holders from October 9 to 16, and shops will be allotted by draw of lots on October 18.

The application fee has been enhanced from ₹1 lakh two years ago to ₹2 lakh. The government earned ₹411 crore as fee from 41,000 applications last time. There is no change in the number of shops to be allotted, which has remained at 2,216 since the formation of the State.

The allotment has been delayed by one month now but the government extended the licence of owners even as it imposed an additional fee. Hence, the new licence period will be from November 1, 2019, to October 31, 2019.

## Special levy

Apart from a hike in application fee, changes in the policy include levy of a special retail excise tax of ₹5 lakh per annum as one time collection from each shop. But this will not be accounted to enhance the eligibility limit for offtake of stocks from the beverages corporation. The existing shop turnover tax at 8% on stocks lifted from the Beverages Corporation in excess of the value equivalent to seven times of licence fee will continue.

## Drone cameras threatening Nilgiris wildlife

Birds may get injured when they attack remote devices of photographers, say conservationists

## ROHAN PREMKUMAR

UDHAGAMANDALAM

With more and more amateur photographers descending on the Nilgiris and the rest of the Western Ghats to capture footage of stunning vistas and exotic wildlife, conservationists are concerned that enthusiasts using drone cameras may be posing a significant threat to the endangered species of birds, especially raptors, many of which are known to attack the equipment and sustain injuries in the process.

Wildlife enthusiasts like M. Santhanaraman, a lawyer who has photographed breeding pairs of Shaheen Falcons in Gudalur, believe



**Aerial threats:** The Shaheen Falcon is known to be very aggressive around unmanned drones. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

that the drones pose a huge threat to birds of prey.

## Threat of extinction

"It is a matter of fact that raptors, when threatened, are known to even abandon

nesting sites, and unfortunately, many species of raptors threatened with extinction nest in rocky outcrops, where amateur photographers most wish to use drones to photograph or

shoot footage," said Mr. Santhanaraman.

"Not just raptors, there have been even videos of elephants being absolutely petrified by drone cameras," he added, stating that the use of drone cameras or Unmanned Aerial Vehicles mounted with filming equipment in forest areas, without the permission of the Chief Wildlife Warden is a criminal offence.

S. Bharathidasan, secretary of Arulagam, a conservation NGO working towards protecting vultures and other species of raptors, said that falcons are known to attack drones on sight.

"When birds attack these

cameras, the rotor blades of the equipment can cause life-threatening injuries to them," he said.

## Identify areas

Conservationists believe that while a blanket ban on drones is impossible to enforce, the forest department should identify areas where vultures and other raptor species are known to nest, and set up effective policing to prevent the unauthorised use of cameras.

Forest officials said there is a ban on using drones in reserve forests, unless the written permission is obtained from the Chief Wildlife Warden.

## Karnataka govt. orders CBI probe against Shivakumar

It's an open-ended order with broad scope for investigation'

## STAFF REPORTER

BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has ordered a probe by the CBI against Congress leader D.K. Shivakumar, who is presently lodged in Tihar jail. This will only add to the troubles of the Congress leader, who was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a money-laundering case on September 3.

Sources said the ED had written to the State government informing that their investigation had revealed the Kanakapura MLA had violated the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, and indulged in corruption.

Acting on the letter, Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa ordered a CBI probe. "It is an open-ended order with a



broad scope for investigation," a source said.

It is common for multiple Central agencies to take up investigations based on revelations of a probe by one agency, the source said.

Trouble for Mr. Shivakumar began with IT searches in August 2017.

It was the I-T Department that brought the ED into the picture, tipping it off about ₹8.6 crore in unaccounted money found at four premises linked to the then Minister in New Delhi and other suspected hawala transactions.

**ELECTRICITY DEPARTMENT  
NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER  
MAINTENANCE NORTH DIVISION  
New Delhi  
e-Procurement Tender Notice**

**TENDER ID NO. 2019\_NDMC\_181243\_1.**  
Name of work:- Repairing, servicing, overhauling, testing of 11KV '630amp H.T. SF-6 Kirloskar make circuit breaker with remote control panel at ESS NAI(old).

Estimated Cost:- 12,43,885/- (Rupees Twelve Lac Forty Three Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Five Only).

Date of release of tender through e-procurement solution 30.09.2019

Last date/time for receipt of tenders through e-procurement solution 10.10.2019 at 3.30 PM Date/Time for opening of bid through e-procurement solution 10.10.2019 at 4.00 PM Further details can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

Note :- To participate in e-tender in NDMC registration with e-tendering system of Government of NCT of Delhi is mandatory.

EE(E/M/N) E.A(M/N)

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, PROJECT WING, JAMMU  
MOHINDER MANSION, SATELLITE COLONY NEAR WAVE MALL,  
BHATINDI ROAD, JAMMU, J&K**

Telephone No:0191-2493853 Email:[ceprojectwingjmu@gmail.com](mailto:ceprojectwingjmu@gmail.com) Dated 28/9/19  
No.CE/PWJ/7234

**Extension No.5**

Due to poor response, the last date for submission of e-bid against e-NIT No:01 of 2019-20/RAPDRP-B/JAMMU Town in Jammu province under RAPDRP-B Dated 01.07.2019, 02 of 2019-20/RAPDRP-B/JAMMU Town in Jammu Province under RAPDRP-B Dated 01.07.2019, 03 of 2019-20/RAPDRP-B/JAMMU Town in Jammu Province under RAPDRP-B Dated 02.07.2019, 04 of 2019-20/RAPDRP-B/JAMMU Town in Jammu Province under RAPDRP-B Dated 02.07.2019 & 05 of 2019-20/RAPDRP-B/KATHUA, SAMBA & R.S. PURA Towns in Jammu Province under RAPDRP-B Dated: 02.07.2019 is hereby extended as per below given details.

S. No.	Project Detail	e-NIT No./Date	Last date for Submission of e-Bid (Extended)	Last submission of Hard copy (Extended)	Opening of Techno-Commercial Bid online (Extended)
1	Electrification works in Jammu Town Which includes construction New 11 KV Lines, New LT ABC Lines; Installation of New Distribution Transformers, Conversion of Existing LT Lines on Bare conductor to ABC & associated works under Package 01,02,03 & 04 Electrification works in Kathua, Samba & R.S. Pura Towns which inter-alia include construction of 11 KV Lines, New LT ABC Lines; Installation of New Distribution Transformers, Conversion of Existing LT Lines on Bare conductor to ABC & associated works under package 05	1. 01 of 2019-20/RAPDRP-B/JAMMU Town in Jammu Province under RAPDRP-B Dated 01.07.2019 2. 02 of 2019-20/RAPDRP-B/JAMMU Town in Jammu Province under RAPDRP-B Dated 01.07.2019 3. 03 of 2019-20/RAPDRP-B/JAMMU Town in Jammu Province under RAPDRP-B Dated 02.07.2019 4. 04 of 2019-20/RAPDRP-B/JAMMU Town in Jammu Province under RAPDRP-B Dated 02.07.2019 & 5. 05 of 2019-20/RAPDRP-B/Kathua, Samba & R.S. Pura Towns in Jammu Province under RAPDRP-B Dated 02.07.2019	14.10.2019 4 P.M.	15.10.2019 4 P.M.	16.10.2019 2 P.M.

DIP/J-706 CHIEF ENGINEER PROJECT WING (JAMMU)

**HIMUDA, DIVISION PARWANOO, DISTRICT SOLAN (H.P.)**  
हिमुदा मंडल परवानू जिला सोलन हि.प्र. (Ph. No. 01792-232359)  
(Head Office :-NigamVihar, Shimla-171002, Cont. No. 0177-2623790)  
[www.himuda.hp.gov.in](http://www.himuda.hp.gov.in), Email id: Parwanoo Office: [xenhimuda.parwanoo@gmail.com](mailto:xenhimuda.parwanoo@gmail.com)

(A state Government Undertaking) [www.himuda.com](http://www.himuda.com) e-Procurement Notice

**\*INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)\***

1. The Executive Engineer, HIMUDA Division Parwanoo, H.P. on behalf of Chairman, HIMUDA invite online bids on item rate, in electronic tendering system, in Two Cover System for the under mentioned works from the eligible and approved contractors/Firms/companies enlisted with the similar Government Agencies of the State or neighbouring State of Punjab, Haryana and U.T. Chandigarh shall be eligible for participation in the tendering process of HIMUDA. However, the successful bidders must get registered in HIMUDA, in appropriate class before signing the contract (All conditions as per enlistment rules of HIMUDA 2018) who have sufficient/requisite experience in the execution of similar nature of work.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost. (Rs.)	Earnest money. (Rs.)	Cost of tender form (Rs.)	Time Limit.
1.	C/o PSFS 8 Nos. Cat-II Flats Baddi, Phase-III District Solan (H.P) (Sub Head:- Special Repair of Block No.G, Cat-II Flats i.e strengthening of parking floor columns and water supply, sanitary installation).	Rs. 23,24,940/-	Rs. 42,500/-	Rs. 5000/-	Two Months

The bid documents will be published online on website <https://ptenders.gov.in> on 03.10.2019 1600 Hrs. upto.

Dated: (Er. Rajesh Thakur)  
Executive Engineer,  
HIMUDA Division, Parwanoo

HP / 0035/2019-2020

**MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS, NEW DELHI  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER  
NATIONAL HIGHWAY DIVISION,  
DIN DAYAL NAGAR, BOOTY ROAD, RANCHI-834008  
Pho. No. 0651-2360428, E-Mail ID: [eenranchi-jhr@nic.in](mailto:eenranchi-jhr@nic.in)**

**Notice Inviting Bid**

Bid/ Package no.- NH/RANCHI /EPC/01/2019-20 Dated- 01.10.2019

RFP for PR/IRQP work in Km 0 to Km 16 (excluding 7.77 to 14.70) of NH-75Ext under NH Division Ranchi in the State of Jharkhand (JOB No.-75Ext-JHR-2019-20/197) on EPC mode under NH Division Ranchi. The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways through Chief Engineer, National Highway Wing, Jharkhand, Ranchi is engaged in the development of National Highways and as part of this endeavour, it has been decided to undertake PR/IRQP work in Km 0 to Km 16 (excluding 7.77 to 14.70) of NH-75Ext under NH Division Ranchi in the State of Jharkhand (JOB No.-75Ext-JHR-2019-20/197) work on Km 0 to Km 16 (excluding 7.77 to 14.70 on NH-75(E) through an Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Contract.

State	NH No.	ICB No.	Name of work	Estimated cost	Completion period	Maintenance period
Jharkhand	NH75Ext	-	PR/IRQP work in Km 0 to Km 16 (excluding 7.77 to 14.70) of NH-75Ext under NH Division Ranchi in the State of Jharkhand (JOB No.-75Ext-JHR-2019-20/197)	6,45,18,943/- (including GST & LC)	06 (Six Months)	3(Three years) after Completion

The complete BID document can be viewed/ downloaded from official portal of the CPPP website <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> from 04.10.2019 to 19.11.2019 (upto 17:00 Hrs IST). Bidder must submit its Financial bid and Technical Bid at <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> on or before 19.11.2019 (upto 17:00 Hrs IST). Bids received online shall be opened on 21.11.2019 (at 15:30 hours IST).

Bid through any other mode shall not be entertained. However, Bid Security, document fee, Power of Attorney and Joint Bidding Agreement etc. shall be submitted physically by the Bidder on or before 21.11.2019 (at 12:30 hours IST). Please note that the Ministry/ Executing Agency reserves the right to accept or reject all or any of the BIDs without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Executive Engineer  
National Highway Division, Ranchi  
Phone: 7260095011

PR 218629 (Road) 19-20 (D) बूँद - बूँद नहीं बरतेगे तो बूँद को तरसेंगे

**GOVERNMENT OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH  
DIRECTORATE OF PRINTING, NAHARLAGUN**

**TENDER NOTICE**

No. DoP-117/2019  
Dated Naharlagun the 25<sup>th</sup> September,2019

Sealed tenders are invited from the Interested Company, Authorized Dealers / Manufacturers only for supply of following machines / equipments to the Directorate of Printing, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh, Papulnath, Naharlagun – 791110 w.e.f. 14<sup>th</sup> October 2019 to 05<sup>th</sup> November 2019 between 11.00 hrs to 16.00 hours on working days by paying a Tender fee of Rs. 3000/- (Rupees three thousand) only in the form of bank draft drawn in favour of Director of Printing, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh, Naharlagun on SBI Ranchi.

The firms will have to submit a written request on their authorized company / firm's letter head for issue of "Tender Paper" for the particular machine / equipment by enclosing a copy of Dealership certificate / Proprietorship certificate, Trading License as a proof of dealing with the particular item and copy of PAN card / Aadhar Card.

The same bidder / firm can participate in single or multiple items by collecting the tender paper separately for each item, if the documents of the bidder / firm fulfill the above mentioned criteria of dealing with multiple items without any extra tender fee.

The Details of specifications and other terms and conditions, etc. will be available in the tender paper. The tender will have to be submitted strictly as per the specifications and other terms and conditions mentioned in the tender.

The last date ( deadline) of submission of Tender is 8<sup>th</sup> November 2019 upto 12 Noon.

DIPR/ARN/1980-82/19 (Tajuk Charu) Director of Printing.

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER  
MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, CHAIBASA**

e-Procurement Tender Notice  
Tender Reference no :- WRD/MID/CHAIBASA/F2-16/2019-20

1	Name of the work	Renovation of Badpose Medium Irrigation Scheme under Manoharpur Block of West Singhbhum District.
2	Estimated cost (in Rs.)	Rs. 1,18,67,100.00 (Rupees One Crore Eighteen Lakh Sixty Seven Thousand One Hundred ) only.
3	Time of Completion	11 Months
4	Last Date / Time of Receipt of Bid	22.10.2019 upto 5.00 P.M
5	Date of	

IN BRIEF



**Stalin seeks CBI probe in NEET impersonation case**

TIRUVARUR  
Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam president M.K. Stalin on Thursday demanded a CBI probe into the NEET impersonation case, which is being investigated by the Tamil Nadu CB-CID. Mr. Stalin said that "since more than 50 students were believed to have taken this route to secure MBBS seats and agents from other States were also said to have been involved," it was a fit case for the CBI to take up the probe.

**Lokpal receives 1,065 complaints, disposes all**

NEW DELHI  
Lokpal, the apex anti-corruption ombudsman that became functional after the appointment of its chairperson and eight members in March, has heard and disposed of 1,000 of the 1,065 complaints received till September 30. "Although the form for filing complaint has not yet been notified, Lokpal decided to scrutinise plaints received in the office, in whatever form they were sent," said the authority.

**Nurses allege denial of maternity leave**

NEW DELHI  
Nursing professionals have written to the Labour and Employment Ministry asking it to ensure that those working in the private sector are given the maternity benefits they are entitled to by law. Some medical centres, they complain, do not grant leave at all and some others who permit leave do not pay for the period.

**Woman throws three daughters into channel**

CUDDALORE  
A 27-year-old woman allegedly threw her three daughters into an irrigation channel at Sathapadi after a quarrel with her husband. All the three girls – Hansika, 6, Ranjini, 5, and two-year-old Darshini – died. Their mother M. Sathyavathy later surrendered before the Sethiappu police.

# Death toll in Bihar floods soars to 73

Several areas remain inundated after a week

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
PATNA

The death toll in rain-related incidents in Bihar soared to 73 on Thursday, even as forces involved in relief and rescue operations fished out rotting corpses from water-logged areas in several places. The torrential rain that took place between September 27 and September 30 has created a flood-like situation in 15 districts of the State, including the capital.

The State Disaster Management Force (SDRF) said that the death toll takes into account loss of lives caused by drowning, wall collapses, trees crushing people to death, and the electrocution of people trapped in water-logged areas. It could not provide a district-wise break-up.

**Worst affected**

Bhagalpur, where the district administration has confirmed as many as 12 casualties, may be the worst affected.

In Patna, normal life has come to a grinding halt in



**Reaching out:** NDRF personnel rescuing an elderly person in Patna on Thursday. ■ RANJEET KUMAR

many parts of the city, notwithstanding efforts being made by the district administration, along with the National Disaster Response Force and the SDRF, to replenish stocks of food, medicines and drinking water for stranded citizens.

Banks, shops, private hospitals and coaching institutes, which abound in Kankar Bagh, Rajendra Nagar and Pataliputra Colony, the worst-affected sections, have

been closed for a week. The last time they could conduct normal business was on Friday, when the downpour began late in the evening and continued over the next couple of days. Heavy duty pumps have been brought in from Chhattisgarh to flush out the water with greater speed. Many localities have been rid of inundation.

Complaints are flooding helplines set up by the district administration, and its

WhatsApp group, with assurances from District Magistrate Kumar Ravi that remedial measures will be taken.

**'Beyond Patna'**

Bharatiya Janata Party MP Ram Kripal Yadav, who on Wednesday night fell into a shallow river while trying to reach a waterlogged area in rural Patna, alleged, "It seems the Patna administration cannot look beyond Kankarbagh and Rajendra

Nagar. Waterlogging has been there in Danapur but nobody seems to notice." Many have pitched in to help. In one instance, 13-year-old girl Siddhi Shreyas came all the way from Samastipur to donate ₹11,000 she had collected over the years, for flood relief. The money was received by former MP Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav, who has earned plaudits for his efforts in the past few days.

# U.P. frames new charges against Dr. Kafeel Khan

Paediatrician not given a clean chit, asserts State govt.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
LUCKNOW

Days after an internal inquiry absolved Gorakhpur-based paediatrician Kafeel Khan of the major charges against him in the 2017 BRD Hospital tragedy that saw about 30 children succumb due to the apparent lack of oxygen, the Uttar Pradesh government on Thursday asserted that Dr. Khan had not been given a clean chit yet.

Two years after he was suspended and jailed following the deaths of infants due to alleged lack of oxygen supply at the hospital, Dr. Khan last week shared with the media an internal report absolving him of the major charge of "medical negligence". The report's author also observed that Dr. Khan was not involved in the process of supply, tender, maintenance, payment or the ordering of oxygen.

Moreover, a fresh departmental inquiry has been initiated against him for spreading "misinformation" about the probe report and for making "anti-government" political comments during the period of his suspension.

The State rapped Dr. Khan for "causing panic" by attempting to treat patients by forcibly entering the paediatric department of the district hospital in Bahraich with "three, four outsiders" on September 22, 2018.

With this, Dr. Khan faces a total of seven charges.

**Previous charges**

All four previous charges against the doctor, including on social media, that he had got a clean chit on the basis of this report.



Dr. Kafeel Khan

found against him in the internal report, are still pending for departmental action, a senior official said.

Two years after he was suspended and jailed following the deaths of infants due to alleged lack of oxygen supply at the hospital, Dr. Khan last week shared with the media an internal report absolving him of the major charge of "medical negligence". The report's author also observed that Dr. Khan was not involved in the process of supply, tender, maintenance, payment or the ordering of oxygen.

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# Family court grants divorce to Indrani, Peter Mukerjea



Peter Mukerjea with Indrani. ■ FILE PHOTO

their decision. But both remained firm on ending their marriage and informed the court of it on Thursday.

The couple, after they filed the petition, were given six months to reconsider

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

Peter and Indrani Mukerjea ended their 17-year-old marriage after a family court in Mumbai granted them divorce on Thursday. The couple, who are currently on trial for the murder of Mukerjea's daughter Sheena Bora, had filed for divorce in September 2018.

The two were granted divorce after their lawyers submitted compliance of the consent terms, which was accepted by the court.

The couple, after they filed the petition, were given six months to reconsider

**NATIONAL FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT BOARD**  
Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Government of India  
Pillar No.235, PVNR Expressway, SVNPVNA Post, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad - 500 052, Phone: 040-24001177 | वेबसाइट/ website: nfdb.gov.in  
No.NFDB/Admin/Dep/349/2019 Date: 24.09.2019  
**NOTIFICATION**  
Applications are invited to fill up the Technical Posts on deputation basis (FST) at NFDB, Hyderabad. For a copy of the application form & complete details, please visit NFDB's website i.e. <http://nfdb.gov.in>. Sd/- Senior Executive (A&F)

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATI RAJ**  
An Organisation of the Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India  
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad - 500030.  
**NIRDPR**  
NIRDPR is a premier Institute providing training, research and consultancy activities in rural development. NIRDPR invites online applications from qualified and experienced persons for the following positions purely on short term contract basis.  
1. Research Associate - 07 nos. (Rs.40,000/- p.m)  
2. Research Assistant (A) - 03 nos. (Rs.22,000/- p.m)  
3. Research Assistant (B) - 01 no. (Rs.15,100/- p.m)  
For details & online visit [www.nirdpr.org.in](http://nirdpr.org.in)  
http://career.nirdpr.org.in/ Last Date: 21.10.2019  
**Advt. No.22/2019** Sd/-  
(No.NIRDPR/Admin.A/A5/2019/Res.Pos./38) Assistant Registrar (E)

# New Chief Justices appointed in seven HCs

Justice S. Mani Kumar will move to Kerala

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The government on Thursday appointed new Chief Justices for seven High Courts (HCs).

Four of the new Chief Justices will fill the vacancies left by Justices V. Ramasubramanian, Krishna Murari, S. Ravindra Bhat and Hrishikesh Roy, who were elevated to the Supreme Court.

Justice S. Mani Kumar of the Madras High Court has been appointed as the Chief Justice in Kerala HC in place of Justice Hrishikesh Roy.

Justice Lingappa Narayana Swamy from the Karnataka HC Court has been appointed as Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court in place of Justice

Ramasubramanian.

Justice Ravi Shanker Jha, Acting Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court, has been appointed as Chief Justice in Punjab and Haryana HC. Justice J.K. Maheshwari of the Madhya Pradesh High Court has been appointed as the Andhra Pradesh High Court Chief Justice.

Justice Indrajit Mohanty of the Bombay HC will take over as the Chief Justice in Rajasthan from Justice Bhat.

Justice Arup K. Goswami, Gauhati HC judge, has been appointed as Sikim HC Chief Justice and Justice Ajai Lamba, Allahabad HC judge, has been appointed in Gauhati.

# U.P. Legislature holds 36-hr-long special session

Some Oppn. MLAs ignore boycott call

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly was all set to create history of sorts on Thursday night by holding 36-hour-long uninterrupted sessions of both Houses amid a boycott by rival parties.

The simultaneous sittings witnessed Aditi Singh (Congress), Shipla Yadav (SP) and Aslam Raini (BSP) come out against their respective party's decision and address the House. Two others, including Nitin Agarwal (SP) and Anil Singh (BSP), who have already switched sides but technically continue to be members of their respective parties, attended the proceedings.

The 36-hour special session to mark the 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi began at 11 a.m. on Wednesday. The Treasury Benches were all ears when SP MLA Shipla Yadav addressed the special session, terming it "historic". He also praised the BJP-led State government for organising an investors' summit.

Addressing the session, BSP MLA Mohammad Aslam Raini said he had listened to his inner voice and decided to attend the Assembly. Thanking Mr. Adityanath for his initiatives, he said, "If I thank too much, everyone will say I have joined the BJP." "Don't be afraid... Jab pyar kiya to darna kya," Speaker Hriday Narain Dixit joked, triggering laughter.

# Mobile app to bring together canine blood donors

T.N. varsity's unique initiative will help save lives of dogs

B. KOLAPPAN  
CHENNAI

Even though great strides have been made by scientists of the Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (Tanuvas) in canine blood transfusions, lack of adequate donors continues to remain a challenge. In order to bridge the gap, Tanuvas has launched a mobile app – Blood4Pet – to bring 'pet-parents' together across the country.

"As far as we know, this is a unique app since we have not come across any such an arrangement even in many developed nations. The app will help both pet owners

and veterinarians to find suitable donors for dogs," said S. Balasubramanian, Director-Clinics, Tanuvas.

**Modern blood bank**  
Tanuvas has a well-equipped, modern blood bank, and an ambulance to reach out to pet blood donors for collecting blood. Over 200 blood transfusions are done every year at Tanuvas in Chennai.

Dr. Balasubramanian said the app was user-friendly and pet-parents could register themselves and their dogs, along with name of the dog's breed, its blood group, weight and address.

There's also a provision in the app for calculating the amount of blood required. A dog can safely donate blood once in three weeks.

# BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Executive Engineer, Kengeri Division, RR Nagar Zone, No.144, 2nd Main, Jagajyothi Layout, Bengaluru - 56.

No: EE/KNG/TEND/27/2019-20 Date: 03.10.2019

## INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)

Two Cover System (Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Kengeri Division invites Tenders on Behalf of the Commissioner, BBMP, Bengaluru from Eligible Tenderers for the Construction of Works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Works	Project Cost of Work (₹. in Lakhs)	Amount put to Tender (₹. in Lakhs)	EMD (₹. in ₹.)
1.	Drilling of Borewell and Supplying of Drinking Water through Tankers in Kengeri at Ward No-159.	99.00	82.92	1,70,000/-
2.	Drilling of Borewell and Supplying of Drinking Water through Tankers in Ward No-130.	99.00	82.91	1,70,000/-
3.	Improvements to Drains and Culverts at Selected Reaches of Doddabidarakallu in Ward No-40 Under Phase 2.	60.00	50.25	1,02,000/-
4.	Improvements to Drains and Culverts Muneshwara Nagar near Naik House and Surrounding Areas in Ward No-40 Doddabidarakallu.	95.00	79.53	1,60,000/-
5.	Improvements to Drains and Culverts at Selected Reaches of Doddabidarakallu in Ward No-40 Under Phase 1.	95.00	79.54	1,60,000/-
6.	Development of Roads and Footpath at MTS Layout Krishnappa Garden and Surrounding Areas in Ward No-159 Kengeri.	250.00	209.37	3,15,000/-

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender documents may be downloaded in the e-procurement portal GOK from 11.10.2019 from 4:00 pm. (2) Last Date and time for Receipt of Tenders is 19.10.2019 upto 12:30 pm. (3) Opening of Bids on 21.10.2019 at 12:30 pm. (4) Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on 14.10.2019 at 3:00 pm in the office of the Chief Engineer, RR Nagar Zone, RR Nagar.

Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website: <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>

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## Toilet targets

The campaign to end open defecation can succeed only if it takes communities with it

**I**ndia's declaration on the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi that its rural areas are now open defecation-free will be acknowledged around the world as a milestone in its developmental journey. Cleanliness and sanitation were central to Gandhi's concerns for his vast number of impoverished countrymen, and should ideally have been pursued zealously by governments in free India, along with good housing and access to clean water. In 2014, the NDA government made total sanitation a high priority, with the avowed goal of bridging decades of neglect through a policy focused on toilet construction. That 110 million toilets were built under this programme since then counts as an achievement in itself, even though many of these structures have been bootstrapped to ramshackle dwellings; many do not meet construction standards. Forward-looking as it is, the campaign for universal sanitation and an end to open defecation cannot go far if toilet access is the sole metric of success. One independent survey shows toilets are not used by up to half the population in some places, underscoring the challenge ahead. It is welcome, therefore, that an ODF-Plus programme has been adopted by the Ministry of Jal Shakti to encourage toilet use and create the infrastructure to manage solid and liquid waste in every village. This is a long road, and the Central government can hope to achieve sustainable outcomes only if it prioritises citizen rights and community participation. The campaign has erred in its approach in many instances, opting for coercive methods that produce dreadful consequences.

Development literature makes it clear that bringing one set of freedoms to people, including material benefits, cannot compensate for the loss of others, notably freedom from oppression. This bears mention in the context of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and its efforts to end open defecation, since officials and campaigners have resorted to violence, public shaming and the threat of deprivation of welfare benefits to bring about compliance. Such methods must be ended immediately and voluntary participation encouraged. Of concern too is a possible resort to illegal manual scavenging, since many toilets built under the Swachh mission are not of the prescribed twin-pit design, and will need periodic evacuation. Despite widely reported cases, the Centre does not appear to be eager to eliminate manual waste removal through a war-like effort, under which all States will install sewage and sludge treatment plants. Neither are States keen to strictly enforce the law that makes the practice punishable. In the years ahead, making sanitation universal and sustainable will depend not just on toilets, but on providing decent urban and rural housing, and strengthening another key determinant of development – the right to a good education.

## Aimless in Haryana

All that is wrong with the Congress comes to the fore ahead of the elections

**T**he Congress party is in dire straits. Steamrollered by a ruthless adversary, the BJP, hollowed out ideologically, and its leaders systematically targeted by the government apparatus, this calamity should have brought everyone in the party together. But the opposite appears to be happening, as was evident in Wednesday's protest outside party president Sonia Gandhi's residence by supporters of Ashok Tanwar, the ousted chief of its Haryana State unit. The crisis in the party unit in Haryana, which is going to polls later this month, is largely self-inflicted. Mr. Tanwar, a Dalit leader with a doctorate, was hand-picked by former Congress president Rahul Gandhi to lead the Haryana unit. In the five years that he was president, there were no district and block-level committees as the AICC did not allow their formation, caving in to pressure from Bhupinder Hooda, a two-term Chief Minister between 2004 and 2014. On the eve of the Assembly poll, Mr. Tanwar was replaced with Kumari Selja, also a Dalit leader and close to Mr. Hooda. That a PCC chief who put in five years of efforts could be dismissed and his tormentors who brought the party to a standstill could be rewarded sent a dispiriting message to workers. Left out in the cold in seat selection, those who remained active in the last five years hit the streets in protest.

Mr. Hooda's triumphant return at the helm of Congress affairs in the State is also indicative of a lingering inability of the party to free itself from the clutches of an old guard and an old method of doing politics. The patronage network in Haryana that flourished during Congress rule enriched individuals but pauperised the party. Mr. Gandhi tried to shake up the party but his successes were limited partly due to his inadequacies and largely because of the old guard's tight grip. Unable to tackle the task, Mr. Gandhi threw in the towel after the 2019 election, and in disarray, the party returned to Ms. Gandhi. The old Congress way – taking the path of least resistance in governance, networking vested interests as organisation and remaining ambiguous on ideological questions – can no longer be a viable model for the party. It requires infusion of fresh ideas and fresh blood at all levels and that must be the focus of Ms. Gandhi's second innings. She must use her moral authority to persuade her close colleagues for the last two decades to voluntarily step aside. They have done their bit, but they cannot pull the party up from the current abyss. They should allow a younger crop to emerge, immature and inexperienced as they are, and mentor them with the larger interests of the party in mind. That is not a sufficient condition for a revival of Congress but is certainly an essential one. Ms. Gandhi must be the catalyst of that process, but not much more.

## The brick and mortar of FDI 2.0

'List or trade in India' should be used as a strategic policy tool to enable Indians to become shareholders in MNCs

NARENDRA JADHAV, VIJAY KELKAR & UMESH KUDALKAR

**F**oreign Direct Investment (FDI 1.0) has been welcome in India irrespective of whether or not its equity structure includes Indian public shareholding. However, the world has undergone a structural change with the emergence of Internet Multi-national Companies (MNCs) such as Microsoft, Google, Facebook and Twitter that are based on 'winner-takes-all' platform business models. These firms are characterised essentially by inequitable dynamics, since they distribute most gains to themselves *vis-à-vis* their host countries. This situation demands a policy response.

Perhaps this is one of the reasons why China banned Internet MNCs. This led to China creating nine out of the 20 global Internet leaders. China strategically deploys a quid pro quo policy. MNC firms are mandated to transfer technology, share patents and enter into 50:50 joint ventures with Chinese partners in return for market access. Given our political system, India will obviously need to follow a new FDI 2.0 policy to achieve more desirable outcomes.

Rather than accepting the 'winner MNC takes it all' as fait accompli, FDI 2.0 should harmonise interests of all stakeholders including Indian consumers, the government and investors. FDI 2.0 could deploy 'List or Trade in India' as a strategic policy tool to enable Indian citizens become shareholders in MNCs such as Google, Facebook, Samsung, Huawei and others, thus capturing the 'upside' they create for their platforms and



companies. This is equitable to all, since Indian consumers contribute to the market value of MNCs.

In 1978, the Indian government adopted a policy that required equity dilution by 100% foreign-owned companies. This led to the 'Listing of MNCs', and many of which then provided handsome returns to both MNCs and Indian shareholders. It is estimated now that listing Indian subsidiaries of MNCs alone could add as much as ₹50 lakh crore to equity market capitalisation. This could make capital markets deeper and valuations more reasonable. 'List or Trade MNCs in India' could become a potent extension to 'Make in India' to disseminate prosperity. In contrast to 1978, the proposals we present here are based on incentives, more capital market-friendly and in line with the practices followed by Mexico, China, Bangladesh and other countries.

**A road map for India**  
India could implement the following set of proposals: Proposal 1 (List in India): Majority (more than 51%) foreign-owned Indian-listed MNCs could be eligible to domestic company tax rate whereas un-

listed MNC subsidiaries could be subjected to a higher tax rate. Many countries such as Bangladesh, Vietnam and Thailand have used tax incentives to attract listing by MNCs.

Mexico is most successful in attracting cross listings. For example, AB InBev, Coca-Cola, Walmart and Citigroup are listed in Mexico. To ensure the success of this proposal, the government will need to reconsider the present policy of allowing 100% MNC-owned subsidiaries to compete with their listed Indian counterparts that erodes the value accruing to Indian shareholders.

Proposal 1, by itself, will not achieve the objective of increasing Indian participation in the fair value of Internet MNCs. This is because of complex issues in revenue booking that result in low profits in Indian subsidiaries. Hence, there is a need for additional initiative by way of proposal 2 to enable Indian investor participation in the ownership of parent MNCs' shares.

Proposal 2 ('Trade in India' i.e. U.S. dollar-denominated parent MNC Shares to be 'Admitted for Trading' on Indian bourses): In

this proposal, Indian investors could buy shares of parent MNCs (where global profits and value get consolidated). This can be permitted within the \$250,000 Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) limit. Indian bourses could admit only S&P 500 stocks. The Mexican Stock Exchange allows trading of international shares listed in other stock exchanges. India could replicate such models.

### Mirroring Mexico

For successful implementation of Proposal 2, the Indian government may need to facilitate following measures:

- Permit Indian bourses to implement international trading system on the lines of Mexico.

- Parent MNCs in S&P 500 with business interests in India could be mandated to facilitate trading of their shares in India. MNCs would readily agree as it does not envisage listing in India.

- For taxation purposes, no distinction should be made between transactions in comparable domestic and foreign securities.

- LRS implementation for buying foreign stocks in GIFT City/NSE/BSE could be simplified and work as single click functionality.

- Educate Indian investors about the value of diversification of their portfolio in international stocks for achieving better risk adjusted returns.

- The government could facilitate access to ultra-low cost (<=0.04%) S&P 500 Index Funds such as Admiral Shares (VFIAX) and ETFs using Indian e-KYC. Indian MFs charge fees from 0.54% to 2%. They are at least 13 times more expensive.

For Proposal 2, one important issue that needs to be addressed pertains to U.S. Estate taxes. For Indian citizens, U.S. estate taxes @40% apply above portfolio value of \$60,000.

To mitigate this burden, the National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) could design a sovereign trust for holding parent MNC stocks. The NSDL could then issue BharatShares to retail investors. Nominees of the government of India would get voting rights in parent MNCs. In addition, the government could make available a 'Fully Disclosed Model' for holding foreign stocks in line with our NSDL/Central Depository Services Ltd (CDSL) system. The prevalent 'Omnibus model' carries the risk of U.S. broker default because investors' shares are held in the U.S. broker's name. For this reason, it could also lead to higher tax liabilities in India.

Summing up, increasing Indian equity ownership of MNCs would offer diversification benefits and make Indians more prosperous. Wealth distribution through mutual funds would create a virtuous cycle of innovative ideas, entrepreneurship, employment, consumption, higher taxes, social and physical infrastructure for the benefit of Indian society. MNCs would earn the goodwill of Indian consumers while expanding their investor base. In other words, this is a win-win for all stakeholders.

Narendra Jadav is a Member of the Rajya Sabha and a Trustee of the Pune International Centre. Vijay Kelkar and Umesh Kudalkar are the Vice-President and Visiting Fellow, respectively, of the Pune International Centre

## Making political parties accountable

A Supreme Court judgment on non-governmental organisations throws light on the powers of an undiluted RTI



ANMOLAM & SHIVAM

**R**ecently, the Supreme Court in *D.A.V. College Trust and Management Society Vs. Director of Public Instructions* held that non-governmental organisations which were substantially financed by the appropriate government fall within the ambit of 'public authority' under Section 2(h) of the Right to Information Act, 2005. Under this section of the RTI Act, 'public authority' means "any authority or body or institution of self-government established or constituted by or under the Constitution and included... any non-government organisation substantially financed directly or indirectly by funds provided by the appropriate government."

### Wide ramifications

Owing to the reasoning given by the court, the judgment can potentially have wide ramifications in the discourse pertaining to the ambit of the RTI regime on national political parties.

In D.A.V., the top court held that

'substantial' means a large portion which can be both, direct or indirect. It need not be a major portion or more than 50% as no strait-jacket formula can be resorted to in this regard. For instance, if land in a city is given free of cost or at a heavily subsidised rate to hospitals, educational institutions or other bodies, it can qualify as substantial financing. The court resorted to 'purposive' interpretation of the provisions by underscoring the need to focus on the larger objective of percolation of benefits of the statute to the masses.

In 2010, the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) filed an application under the RTI to all national parties, seeking information about the "IO maximum voluntary contributions" received by them in the past five years. None of the national political parties volunteered to disclose the information. Consequently, ADR and RTI activist Subhash Agarwal filed a petition with the Central Information Commission (CIC).

In 2013, a full bench of the CIC delivered a historic judgment by declaring that all national parties came under 'public authorities' and were within the purview of the RTI Act. Accordingly, they were directed to designate central public information officers (CPIOs) and the appellate authorities at

their headquarters within six weeks.

In 2013, The Right to Information (Amendment) Bill was introduced in Parliament to keep political parties explicitly outside the purview of RTI that lapsed after the dissolution of the 15th Lok Sabha. Notwithstanding the binding value of the CIC's order under Section 19(7) of the Act, none of the six political parties complied with it. Quite interestingly, all the parties were absent from the hearing when the commission issued show-cause notices for non-compliance at the hearing.

Finally, in 2019, a PIL was filed in the Supreme Court seeking a declaration of political parties as 'public authority' and the matter is sub judice. Irrespective of the ideological differences among these political parties on almost all the issues under the sun, non-compliance of the RTI mandate has

been a great unifier.

Drawing an analogy between the Supreme Court's judgment on D.A.V. and the political parties' issue which is sub judice, it can be argued that national parties are 'substantially' financed by the Central government. The various concessions, such as allocation of land, accommodation, bungalows in the national and State capitals, tax exemption against income under Section 13A of the Income Tax Act, free air time on television and radio, etc. can easily satisfy the prerequisite of Section 2(h) of the RTI. If an entity gets substantial finance from the government, there is no reason why any citizen cannot ask for information to find out whether his/her money which has been given to the entity is being used for the requisite purpose or not.

### On accountability

Applying the purposive rule of interpretation which is discernible from the preamble of the RTI Act, the ultimate aim is the creation of an 'informed' citizenry, containment of corruption and holding of government and its instrumentalities accountable to the governed.

Under the anti-defection law, political parties can recommend disqualification of Members of the House in certain eventualities under the Tenth Schedule of the

Constitution.

The Law Commission opines that political parties are the lifeblood of our entire constitutional system. Political parties act as a conduit through which interests and issues of the people get represented in Parliament. Since elections are predominantly contested on party lines in our parliamentary democratic polity, the agenda of the potential government is set by them.

As noted by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in his famous Constituent Assembly speech, "The working of a Constitution does not depend wholly upon the nature of the Constitution. The Constitution can provide only the organs of State... The factors on which the working of those organs of the State depend are the people and the political parties they will set up as their instruments to carry out their wishes and their politics." It is hoped that the top court will further the positive advances made in this direction. Since sunlight acts as the best disinfectant and our political parties tirelessly claim themselves to be apostles of honesty and integrity, it is expected that they would walk the talk.

Anmolam is a lawyer, running a non-profit organisation, BDLAASW. Shivam is a research scholar at the faculty of law, Delhi University

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

### Sanitation claim

The announcement by the Prime Minister on sanitation cannot sound more hollow in the wake of the murders of two Dalit children last month for defecating in the open. Though the Prime Minister is perpetually trying to present a rosy picture of the nation in the international arena, the ground-level realities are quite otherwise (Page 1, "Prime Minister Modi declares country open defecation-free", October 3). There might be a significant increase in sanitation facilities, continued usage of toilets in rural areas but success depends on the availability of water as well as definite behavioural changes. That being so, ever-widening income inequalities made possible by government policies and the fact that disparity and untouchability are still prevalent show that the country has still a long way to go in achieving 'ODF' status. Mere proclamations might enthuse supporters

of the Central government, but saner minds understand that much remains to be accomplished.

G.B. SIVANANDAM,  
Coimbatore

■ The illegal and inhuman way in which the local administration, especially in some northern States, has gone ahead to fulfil targets "assigned from the top" has not only subverted constitutional values but also the principles of barest civic morality (OpEd, "Miles to go before becoming open defecation-free", October 3). It has been inevitable that those who are marginalised have been made to suffer in the fulfilment of this campaign. It is unfortunate that we are being sold lies and brutality in the name of celebrating a man known for upholding the values of truth and non-violence.

FIROZ AHMAD,  
New Delhi

■ The claim can be challenged. Though the government has undertaken the responsibility of building

toilets in rural and urban areas, the point is this: how many in a household use it?

Toilets may have been built but if there are still people who prefer to defecate in the open, it shows the lack of change in behaviour and education about the importance of having a clean and healthy environment.

JAGYASINI BURMA,  
Cuttack, Odisha

■ Allocation and distribution of funds to building toilets are not enough. Monitoring is also a must. The government should review the list of beneficiaries and check whether there has been a change in behaviour. There may not be open defecation in surveillance areas. The fact is that a majority in rural India still lack proper toilet facilities.

SOBHANA P.S.,  
Vandiperiyar, Idukki, Kerala

■ The government cannot ignore that fact that overcoming water problems, septic tank cleaning, stopping manual scavenging and faecal management are also an integral part of the

process of declaring India to be open defecation-free.

There cannot be an announcement made with closed eyes for mere political gain and global attention.

There needs to be an abolition of manual

scavenging, the use of data, the use of robotics to clean faecal storage areas and a linkage with the Ayushman Bharat programme.

K. KESAVAN,  
Chennai

### Discourse shift

Objectivity becomes a casualty when political commentary and economic analysis are scaffolded on ideological opposition (Editorial page, "Decoding the corporate-Hindutva alliance", October 3). The so-called "corporate-Hindutva alliance" appears to be an exaggerated caricature of two distinct developments that seem unrelated to each other. Corporate tax cuts are one-off short-term measures that are aimed at boosting private investments that can spur economic revival. True, whether corporate

beneficiaries of lower tax rates will invest the surplus in job-creating ventures remains to be seen. But to prognosticate a doomsday scenario of market contraction appears a needlessly pessimistic conjecture. Hyphenation of political projects such as nationalism and measures to stimulate the sluggish economy and labelling tax cuts as a transfer of resources from the poor to the rich bristle with conspiratorial undertones.

Economic expertise will serve the nation if it is channelled towards suggesting proposals to revive the economy instead of frittering it away scoring political points.

V.N. MUKUNDARAJAN,  
Thiruvananthapuram

■ Though there is a reluctant acceptance of an economic slowdown, the issues are not acknowledged, not to speak of their being addressed. Corporate tax cuts are one-off short-term measures that are aimed at boosting private investments that can spur economic revival. True, whether corporate

thrown up and operation-diversion keeps going on merrily. Fake news, false videos and concocted stories going

# Co-operative banks: Is dual regulation the problem?

PARLEY

Coming under both RBI and State Registrars, these banks pose specific supervisory challenges

*In late September, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed restrictions on withdrawals from the Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank, one of the largest urban cooperative lenders. Over the past week, bank customers have been in a state of panic and the central bank has sought to assuage concerns about the banking sector's health. Usha Thorat and S. Mahendra Dev discuss the measures needed to restore confidence among customers in a conversation moderated by Vikas Dhoop. Edited excerpts:*

**How are cooperatives overseen and what could have allowed the PMC Bank to get away with such large bad loans for years?**

**Usha Thorat:** One needs to go back to history. Cooperative banks came directly under the RBI's radar in 1966 but faced the problem of dual regulation. The Registrar of Cooperative Societies (RCS) is in control of management elections and many administrative issues as well as auditing. And the RBI brought them under the Banking Regulation Act as applicable to cooperative societies, which included all the regulatory aspects, namely, the granting of the licence, maintaining cash reserve, statutory liquidity and capital adequacy ratios, and inspection of these banks. So, in a sense, urban cooperative banks have been under the radar of the RBI, but because of dual regulation, one always had a feeling that one did not have as much control over these banks in terms of supercession of boards or removal of directors, as the RBI has over private sector banks.

The Madhavpura Mercantile Cooperative Bank issue turned out to be huge because it had a significant percentage of its assets as loans to Ketan Parekh, not unlike the case we are seeing now. And because it was an active bank in liquidity and money markets, Madhavpura used to provide liquidity to many other banks, so a huge number of cooperative banks had deposits with Madhavpura. So, a closure of that bank would have meant the closure of several other banks too. There was a lot of talk between the RBI, and the Central and Gujarat governments and a package was put together for

Madhavpura. It was challenged, but finally it did go through with a staggered repayment of deposits and infusion of funds from the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC). I don't recall whether the legal challenge was finally disposed of.

Why I am talking of Madhavpura is that maybe some parts of its resolution can be examined today. After this episode, RBI decided to squarely deal with the problems of cooperative banks. It issued a vision document in 2004-05 and stopped all licences of new branches and new bank entities. There was a proliferation of licences issued between 1991 and 1998. Under the vision document, a Memorandum of Agreement was entered into by the RBI with each of the States, where the State accepted an audit by professional auditors, and constituted a Task Force for urban cooperative banks. The TAF-CUB was co-chaired by the RCS and the RBI Regional Director and was required to provide a bank-by-bank solution to those banks that were not maintaining minimum capital ratios. Not giving any new licences or new branches also pushed existing cooperative banks to come forth to take over the weak ones. This worked very well and a number of cooperative banks were delicensed, merged or liquidated. By 2017-18, as stated in the RBI Financial Stability Report, there were only four urban cooperative banks with capital adequacy ratios below the regulated threshold.

**Given this background, what do you think led to the PMC Bank crisis? Was it because of some regulatory aspects falling between the two stools of the RBI and RCS?**

**UT:** I don't think so. As I said, there was a forum for the RBI and the RCS to work together. Moreover, since 2004, a number of banks have been brought under all-inclusive directions where there have been significant weaknesses. So, the RBI has been taking action when it is clear that a bank is not able to carry on its operations in a manner that protects the interests of the depositors. But in PMC's case, it is a fraud, total hiding [of the problem] – a huge ex-

## All creatures great and small

It has become clear that the welfare of humans and other animals is closely interlinked

AMBika Hiranandani

World Animal Rights Day falls on October 4. It coincides with the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron Saint of animals and the environment. As far back as the 12th century, he recognised the importance of extending compassion towards animals. Today, with the help of scientific inquiry we have learnt that it is in our best interest to extend compassion to other living beings, be it by protecting their habitats or refraining from intensively farming them. It has become increasingly clear that the welfare of humans and other animals is closely interlinked.

### Pressing problems

Consider, for example, the bee, whose population is declining at an alarming rate today because of climate change, pesticides and habitat loss. Bees pollinate 70 of nearly 100 crop species that feed 90% of the world. Insects help in the decomposition of organic materials, including bodies of the dead, and enrich the soil. Dung beetles evolved 65 million years ago and, as their name suggests, eat dung, recycle nutrients and improve the quality of the soil. Half of the world's species are insects, so if insects go extinct, the consequence would be complete degradation of our soil consequently leading to the disappearance of all remaining life.

A second dimension of concern for animal rights centres on farming.

We keep billions of animals intensively confined in factory farms for meat, eggs and dairy. There are serious repercussions of these practices, both for animals and humans. Hens kept in battery cage farms see the sun twice in their lives – once on the way to the farm and the second on the way to the slaughterhouse. These factories are responsible for the formation of dead pools around them, have a massive odour, and attract pests.

The people who live in the vicinity of these farms suffer from several health issues including breathing problems. Hence, while it may make financial sense to cram animals into factory farms, the consequences can be considerable. To mitigate this, the system of intensive farm animal pro-

duction needs to become more humane and less exploitative, for both animals and people. Governments can take a first step by prohibiting the cruelty of battery cages.

The deleterious impact of animal agriculture, including pastoral activities, is captured in research that shows that the Amazon fires were caused by ranchers who wanted to use the land for cattle grazing and farming. Indian forests are also being degraded by the excessive pressure of animal agriculture. The United Nations has found that "livestock production is one of the major causes of the world's most pressing environmental problems, including global warming, land degradation, air and water pollution, and loss of biodiversity".

### Animal welfare

Our legal system treats animals as if they are non-sentient commodities that can be owned and disposed by people. Animal husbandry has an entire department dedicated to it. Thousands of crores are invested in slaughterhouses. Conversely, animal welfare is relegated to one board, which must look after the welfare of billions of animals in the country. Policy reform in this space is such a low priority that while parking fines are at least ₹10,000 in Mumbai, the penalty for beating an animal in India is ₹50. It is time for our government to depute a Ministry and budget for the welfare of animals.

Animal lives can be saved by commercialising the innovations of plant-based and cultured or clean meat. Clean meat is grown in a lab from a small sample of cells taken from an animal. Both plant-based meat and clean meat are free of the negative externalities that animal meat production is responsible for, such as climate change, and are healthier as they are also free of antibiotics.

We hold the future of billions of animals in our hands. We have an opportunity to translate our philosophy of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* into action. We must act in our collective best interest.

*Ambika Hiranandani is a lawyer, animal rights activist and environmentalist*



**C** The challenge in banking supervision and regulation lies in knowing the quality and engagement of the Board, the key personnel and their conflicts of interest and connections.

RBI, there are three problems – major financial irregularities, failure of internal control and systems, and underreporting of exposures. It is well known that PMC Bank has extended 73% of its assets to HDIL, which has created a panicky situation for depositors. The RBI has had to clarify that Indian banking is safe. The problem is, of course, dual control by the RBI and the RCS, with the State government also playing a role and politics sometimes entering the space. The management, Board and auditors are responsible. It's a governance and transparency issue that also affects public sector banks, private banks, and NBFCs.

So, what should be done? I am in favour of merging and converting some of the cooperative banks to small finance banks. The RBI has announced a scheme for voluntary transition of urban cooperative banks into small finance banks, in line with the recommendations of a high-powered committee chaired by former Deputy Governor of the RBI, R. Gandhi. This would enable them to have most of the products available with commercial banks, and help get a pan-India presence. But there are many conditions on share capital, loan sizes and loans to priority sector. So, you can't convert all of them but there can be a gradual move towards that.

**Ms. Thorat, do you think small finance banks would be better governed?**

**UT:** Let's again look at the things the RBI has tried to do in the last four-five years. First, there was a committee under H. Malegam which recommended a board of management of fit and proper persons, other than the board of directors. Directors are elected by members and very often the borrowers get to nominate their own persons, while depositors are not really represented as these banks accept deposits from non-members. So, the idea was to have a board of management in actual control of operations as opposed to elected directors. I think this must be done immediately as an incentive for those who want to continue to grow. We should perhaps tell these banks, you must put this in place, otherwise there will be no more branch licences and we can impose restrictions on your loan book. There must be a push for a fit and proper management, otherwise the elected director can get away with fraud. Then all we can do is cope with the aftermath of his or her actions.

Having said that, you will find that a majority of the cooperative banks have been doing a good job – meeting the needs of small businesses and even rural credit – very much what we call inclusive finance. Just about 50 or 60 of these 1,500 banks are large. So the RBI's supervisory resources have to be really focused on these larger banks mostly operating across the country like commercial banks.

Second, the RBI has given the choice to urban cooperative banks to convert to small finance banks. That option is there for those players with more than ₹50 crore capital and 15% capital adequacy. This is an incentive as they will then be able to grow their capital by issuing shares at a premium. Today, the biggest hurdle for an urban cooperative bank is to raise capital. For them, the RBI might like to incentivise conversion into small finance banks. It can say that for further growth the larger urban cooperative banks should either appoint a board of management that meets the RBI's norms for fit and proper or become small finance banks. The challenge in banking supervision and regulation lies in knowing the quality and engagement of the Board, the key personnel and their conflicts of interest and connections.

Third, RBI has also said that for urban cooperative banks there

could be an umbrella organisation promoted by the banks themselves to raise capital as a joint stock company from the markets.

This incident poses a challenge for supervision. It comes back to how exposures can be hidden, which can be done in any bank or NBFC, not just a cooperative. The supervision system should be able to catch much more underreporting or false reporting and ensure accountability of the Board and the auditors. Criminal action has been initiated against the managing director, but what about all the directors? Is it possible that the directors or the Board were not aware of the exposure? In any case they are liable.

I think we should also look at the extent of deposits of other cooperative banks in such large urban cooperative banks. Perhaps it is time to review whether an urban cooperative bank should accept deposits of other urban cooperative banks. Because this means depositors of smaller banks may also suffer.

The frequency and intensity of supervision has to be clearly based on the size of the bank and the assessment made of the governance standards in the banks. All banks – small finance banks, cooperative banks and leveraged institutions like NBFCs – are open to the risk of poor governance. There is no option but to look at the fit and proper character of the directors.

**Demonetisation helped push a lot of cash savings into the formal financial sector. But given this fresh crisis of confidence among bank customers, what can the government and the regulator do to restore their faith?**

**SMD:** Many depositors opt for cooperative banks because they give a higher interest rate. Even the RBI's staff cooperative has deposits parked with PMC. The confidence comes from governance and regulation. RBI has been urging cooperative lenders to act professionally. We need confidence-building for all banks, not just for cooperatives, but even NBFCs. A recent study showed that small cooperatives are doing better in terms of non-performing assets and other aspects, while large urban cooperatives are not doing well. So, we have to look at how to supervise large cooperatives better.



### NOTEBOOK

## The multilingual advantage

It helps to speak in many tongues to get authentic reporting done

SRINIVASAN RAMANI

For journalists who seek to report from various parts of the country, apart from the usual tools and skillsets that are required, having a grasp over many languages helps. When covering subjects that relate to livelihood, the ability to converse, listen and understand in the lingo that people are most comfortable with often brings about authentic reporting.

A case in point was when I visited Wayanad three years ago to file a special report on the fledgling Maoist presence in the tri-junction of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. This area has a substantial tribal population. The assignment was challenging despite the fact that I grew up in many parts of India and can speak four languages – Tamil (my mother tongue), English, Hindi and Bengali – relatively well.

The tribals whom I wanted to interview were understandably tight-lipped and wary of talking to journalists. Besides, those who were inclined to speak after some prodding and confidence-building could not speak English, and knowing Hindi was of no avail as Kerala is among the States with the fewest Hindi speakers. Thankfully, my colleague, Visual Editor Dinesh Krishnan, who joined me in the assignment as the photojournalist, is from Kerala and helped me get over this barrier.

Apart from the tribals, one of the poorer set of residents in the area who had then been frequented by the Maoists for ideological propaganda and possible recruitment were Tamil refugees from Sri Lanka. They had been living there for decades. In this case, it was my ability to converse in my mother tongue with the residents that made it

possible for them to open up about their travails. This helped us garner insights into why the Maoists had sought to tap into the grievances in the area. A young mother mentioned how the Maoists during their infrequent visits, unlike government representatives, also spoke in Tamil with them. A sly listener nearby asked in Tamil if we were Maoists and I had to show them our identity cards to confirm that we were indeed journalists.

As we wrapped up our interviews with the tribals, politicians and police officials we spoke to asked us to get permission from a senior officer in the district headquarters in Ooty. But the senior official was not keen to give us permission, despite my best efforts to persuade him. Just as I was about to give up and leave, Dinesh noticed that he was from Andhra Pradesh and promptly took over the beseeching duties by talking in Telugu. After giving us a fresh hearing, the kind official gave us permission.

In a country with such a multitude of languages and where citizens feel the most comfortable in interacting in their own tongues, it helps to know and learn more languages and not limit ourselves to just one, that too an imposed one. Our experience told us that the concept of "one nation, one language" would fail the test of convenience.

The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 4, 1969

### Relevance of Gandhiji's ideals

Miss Angie Brooks, President of the General Assembly of the United Nations, in a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi before the Assembly began its general debate yesterday, said his thoughts and ideals were as relevant to problems before the U.N. today [October 3] as they were in relation to the goals and objectives Mahatma Gandhi pursued in his day. "It is therefore only fitting that we should respectfully recall the memory of this great visionary and leader who will long continue to be a constant inspiration to all of us." The Gandhi centenary was observed by the United Nations yesterday with the President of the Assembly as well as the Chairmen of the various committees of the United Nations paying tribute to the apostle of non-violence at the opening of the session. The External Affairs Minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, told the Assembly that it was significant that the three causes for which Gandhi struggled non-violently throughout his life were also the three with which the United Nations Charter concerns itself: discrimination, decolonisation and economic development benefiting the underprivileged everywhere.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO OCTOBER 4, 1919.

### Purse to Mr. Gandhi by Women

Bombay, October 3. – Under the auspices of the Bhagini Samaj, a public meeting of Indian women was held yesterday afternoon in Vanita Vishram Hall to present to Mr. M.K. Gandhi a purse collected by subscription in honour of his silver jubilee. The proceedings were in vernacular. Lady Jugmohandas presided in the absence of Mrs. J.B. Petit, and read her address. In it Mrs. Petit said that they owed a debt of gratitude to Mr. Gandhi for his great efforts in ameliorating the condition of womanhood of India which they could not adequately repay. The question of presenting him with a purse was taken up to mark their appreciation of the ideals which he had placed before them. The sum was not big but the spirit in which it was collected would make up for the smallness of the amount. The purse contained Rs. 20,100 and Rs. 7000 more were to be realised. The purse was presented to Mr. Gandhi amidst cheers. In accepting it Mr. Gandhi said that he was grateful to them for what they had done for him on his birthday and he would utilise the sum for some object for the amelioration of the condition of Indian womanhood after careful consideration and would ask for suggestions from them.

FROM PAGE ONE

## Hasina to focus on economic agenda

Ms. Hasina is expected to take up the Ganga barrage issue which has been stuck because of mutual differences. It is expected that issues like NRC are also likely to come up during the discussions.

A high-level Bangladeshi source pointed out that Dhaka recognises there is considerable divergence between the assurances given by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on NRC and the statements by Home Minister Amit Shah.

The NRC exercise in Assam left out 1.9 million people out of the list of citizens and subsequently Mr. Jaishankar said the future of these NRC-excluded is an internal matter of India.

However Mr. Shah has repeatedly asserted that the NRC-excluded people will not find space in India.

"We understand that the diplomatic comments on the issue are made keeping in mind Prime Minister Modi's growing global stature. And we are aware of the greater political clout of the Indian Home Minister who caters to the domestic audience driven by the ideology of Hindutva," said the source. He said the NRC would have remained an internal issue of India if it was contained after the Assam chapter and warned of its negative fallout for the South Asian region.

## Chidambaram moves Supreme Court for bail

The High Court had denied Mr. Chidambaram bail on the basis of submissions by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, which was also reflected in a 'sealed cover' report, that two material witnesses in the case were "approached" and told not to disclose information concerning Mr. Chidambaram and his son Karti.

"The petitioner [Chidambaram] categorically states that at no point in time, whether prior to the lodging of the FIR dated May 15, 2017 or thereafter, has he approached or influenced any of the alleged material witnesses (accused) or even attempted to do so, directly or indirectly," the petition said.

**'Demonstrably false'**  
It said the allegation was made in a sealed cover and thus did not give him an opportunity to show it was "demonstrably false."

"The liberty of the petitioner has thus been denied on the basis of the above baseless, anonymous and unverified allegation made behind the petitioner's back," the petition said. That witness were approached is not supported by material to show "any personal meeting at any given place or any other form of communication (such as SMS, email, letter, telephone calls, etc.), which could lend any credibility to the allegation made in the sealed cover."

Neither had the investigating agencies made such a claim in any of the past six remand applications to the court. The petition said the allegation was only meant to prejudice Mr. Chidambaram's case for bail.

Special Correspondent reports:

The trial court judge Ajay Kumar Kuhar extended Mr. Chidambaram's judicial remand.

"The investigation is still pending. It is informed that the bail application of the accused has been dismissed by the Delhi High Court on September 30. Considering the facts mentioned in the application [by the CBI] there is no change in the circumstances as noted in the earlier orders, the judicial remand of the accused is extended," the special judge said in his order.

## Tarigami not allowed to attend Delhi meet

After two failed visits to Srinagar when he had to return from the airport itself, Mr. Yechury filed a *habeas corpus* petition in the Supreme Court, following which he was allowed to travel to Mr. Tarigami's residence on August 29.

Based on Mr. Yechury's report on Mr. Tarigami's health condition, the apex court ordered that he be brought to Delhi for a check-up and follow-up treatment at the AIIMS.

**Shifted to AIIMS**  
He was shifted to the AIIMS on September 9 and he re-

turned to Srinagar on September 19. Before leaving for the State, Mr. Tarigami confirmed that he would return to the Capital to attend the central committee meeting.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi and Justices S.A. Bobde and S.A. Nazeer had in their final order said, "If he intends to move around any part of Srinagar, where there are restrictions or prohibitions to move, he will be free to do so subject to requisite permission from the district authorities."

## Five SC judges recuse from Navlakha case

However, the CJI withdrew from the case. The one-line order said, "List the matter before a Bench wherein one of us, Justice Ranjan Gogoi (CJI) is not a member."

The CJI, lawyers in the case said, may have recused himself because of the paucity of time.

The CJI, who is retiring on November 17, wants to entirely focus on the Ayodhya appeals.

He heads the Constitution Bench, which is hearing the appeals all day from Monday to Friday. The Bench intends to finish the hearing by October 18.

The Navlakha plea then came up for hearing before another Bench comprising Justices N.V. Ramana, R. Subhash Reddy and B.R. Gavai on October 1. Though the expression of reluctance

to hear the case seems to have come from Justice Gavai in the courtroom, the court's order later showed that all the three judges did not want to hear the case. The one-line order read, "List on October 3 before a Bench of which none of us are members."

The petition then came up for admission before the third three-judge Bench.

Mr. Navlakha has moved the SC against the Bombay HC decision to reject his plea to quash the FIR against him in the Bhima Koregaon case.

On September 13, the High Court granted him protection from arrest for two weeks to approach the Supreme Court in appeal.

The FIR filed by the Pune police accuses Mr. Navlakha of links with naxal groups.

CMYK

## Tawde, Khadse missing in BJP's penultimate list

Party announces names for 143 seats; Pawar claims some may join Opposition

SHARAD VYAS  
MUMBAI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Thursday released its third list of candidates for the October 21 elections to the Maharashtra Assembly. The names of Education Minister Vinod Tawde and former ministers Prakash Mehta and Eknath Khadse were conspicuous by their absence in the list.

The party named Kashiram Pawara, Mallikarjun Reddy, Parinay Phuke and Ramesh Singh Thakur as its candidates from Shirpur, Ratnem, Sakoli and Malad West respectively. With this, the BJP has announced candidates for 143 seats. With less than 24 hours to go for the filing of nominations to end, 95 of these candidates had filed their papers till Thursday evening.

As many as 15 nominations were filed on Thursday, including by BJP State president Chandrakant Patil. The party is still expected to announce candidates for at least three more seats. "We are expecting Chief Minister



**Son shine:** Shiv Sena candidate Aaditya Thackeray on way to file his nomination for the Assembly poll in Mumbai on Thursday. Aaditya is Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray's son. ■ EMMANUEL YOGINI

Devendra Fadnavis, finance minister Sudhir Mungantiwar and housing minister Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil to file nominations by tomorrow," said senior party spokesperson Madhav Bhandari.

Meanwhile, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) supremo Sharad Pawar hinted at the possibility of some of the excluded BJP leaders joining the Opposition's ranks.

The NCP chief said he had been in touch with Mr. Khadse in the past three

months, a charge the latter rejected. In its first list, the BJP named 90 sitting MLAs, while dropping 12. Mr. Khadse and Mr. Mehta are among the high profile leaders whose names are missing. Both former ministers faced charges of corruption.

**Cong., NCP candidates**

Meanwhile, the Congress and NCP finalised names of 37 and 20 candidates on Thursday. Ashish Deshmukh, a former BJP MLA now with

the Congress, will take on Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis in Nagpur South West constituency. The party has also changed candidates for Nandurbar (ST) and Sillod in Aurangabad.

Mr. Deshmukh, son of former senior Congress leader Ranjeet Deshmukh, had contested as BJP candidate from Katol in 2014 and defeated his uncle Anil Deshmukh (NCP). He, however, resigned before the Lok Sabha polls and joined Congress.

## Miffed Sanjay Nirupam to skip Congress campaign

He protests ticket denial for supporter

STAFF REPORTER  
MUMBAI

In yet another blow to the Congress before elections, former MP and ex-Mumbai president Sanjay Nirupam on Thursday announced his decision to not participate in the party's election campaign for the assembly polls to be held on October 21.

"It seems Congress party doesn't want my services anymore. I had recommended just one name in Mumbai for Assembly election. Heard that even that has been rejected. As I had told the leadership earlier, in that case I will not participate in poll campaign. It's my final decision," Mr. Nirupam tweeted on Thursday evening.

When asked whether he will quit the party, Mr. Nirupam said, "I hope that the day has not yet come to say good bye to party. But the



**Sanjay Nirupam**

way leadership is behaving with me, it doesn't seem far away."

In the run-up to Lok Sabha polls as well, Mr. Nirupam was shunted out from the party's Mumbai president post and the reins were handed over to Milind Deora. Incidentally, Mr. Deora had resigned from the post after the party's rout in the elections.

According to sources, Mr. Nirupam had sought a ticket in Mumbai's Versova constituency for his supporter.

## Amidst bitter factional fight, Congress releases Haryana list

Supporters of former Pradesh Congress Committee chief Ashok Tanwar protest outside Sonia Gandhi's residence

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday officially released the party's list of candidates for the upcoming Assembly election in Haryana amidst a bitter factional fight that had reached party chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala and elder son of former CM Bhajan Lal

doorstep in national capital.

Prominent names include former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, former Congress Legislature Party chief Kiran Chaudhary, party's chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala and elder son of former CM Bhajan Lal

Chander Mohan.

On Wednesday, supporters of the former Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) chief Ashok Tanwar protested outside Ms. Gandhi's 10 Janpath residence over the distribution of tickets for the polls.

As party workers, loyal to the former PCC chief, shouted slogans against Mr. Hooda, party's election management chief, and Ghulam Nabi Azad, who is in charge for the State.

Mr. Tanwar alleged that workers were ignored and

tickets were being given on whims and fancies.

Last month, the Congress had replaced Mr. Tanwar and appointed Kumari Selja as the chief of its Haryana unit and Mr. Hooda as chairperson of the election management committee.

Mr. Hooda had come out against Mr. Tanwar - appointed by the former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi in 2014 - and blamed him for the Congress failing to win a single Lok Sabha seat in the 2019 Lok Sabha election.

## Court reserves verdict on plea challenging 2018 SC/ST Amendment Act

We will not be touching anything'

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday reserved its judgment in a batch of petitions challenging the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Act of 2018, which nullified a controversial March 20, 2018 apex court judgment diluting the stringent provisions of the Dalit protection law.

The Supreme Court has itself recalled its March 20 judgment on October 1, 2019 in a review petition filed by the government. It said it was wrong on the part of the March 20 judgment to treat all SC/ST community members as "liar or crook". It was against basic human dignity". The March 20 judgment had diluted the original 1989 legislation, saying they were using its provisions to file false criminal complaints against innocent persons.

**'Human failing'**

On October 1, the Supreme Court cast aside the reasoning as faulty, saying human failing and not caste is behind false complaints.

On Thursday, before reserving the case for judgment, a Bench of Justices Arun Mishra, Vineet Saran and S. Ravindra Bhat made it clear that it would neither upset the October 1 judgment nor dilute the provisions of the statute.

"We will not be touching anything," Justice Mishra clarified.

The government had brought in the amendment

ments, saying the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes continue to face the same social stigma, poverty and humiliation to which they have been subjected for centuries.

**Huge backlash**

The 2018 Act nullified a March 20 judgment of the Supreme Court, which allowed anticipatory bail to those booked for committing atrocities against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes members. The original 1989 Act bars anticipatory bail. The apex court verdict saw a huge backlash across the country. Several died in ensuing protests and scores worth of property was destroyed. The government reacted by filing a review petition in the Supreme Court and subsequently amended the 1989 Act back into its original form.

Several petitions were filed challenging the 2018 Amendment Act. The lead petitioner, advocate Prithvi Raj Chauhan, even called the amendments a "blunder" and a violation of the fundamental right to equality and personal liberty. The Supreme Court however had refused to stay the implementation of the amendments.

**No decrease**

The government had responded that there was no decrease in the atrocities committed on members of SC/ST communities, despite the laws meant to protect their civil rights.

## The third eye



**Closer look:** Army personnel displaying surveillance equipment at the 22nd India International Security Expo 2019 at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi on Thursday. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

## Crisis blows over for Manipur CM Biren Singh

BJP high command decides against leadership change in the State

NISTULA HEBBAR  
NEW DELHI

Amendment Bill (CAB), which Home Minister N. Biren Singh appears to have declared would be introduced soon prior to undertaking a National Register of Citizens (NRC) exercise in several parts of the country.

**Cabinet reshuffle**

The BJP leadership told Mr. Singh that a senior leader from Delhi would be sent to Manipur soon to settle the internal issues within the party, including possibly effecting a Cabinet reshuffle in the State that could go a long way in calming tempers.

Given the protests against the proposed CAB in the State, some dissidents have been raising this as an issue

that requires sensitive handling. According to senior BJP leaders who spoke on the condition of anonymity, Mr. Shah has given an assurance that there would be nothing done to affect the culture and rights of the indigenous population in the State. But, while the hill areas are protected under Article 371(c) of the Constitution, those residing in the valley, the Sanamahi and Hindu Meiteis, are both said to be sensitive over the issue.

**Easing Meitei concerns**

The Manipur Assembly had passed the Manipur People's Protection Bill, 2018, in July last year aimed at providing

protection to the Meiteis in the valley. That measure is still pending with Rashtrapati Bhavan. The State unit is hoping that the Bill gets Presidential assent thus helping the party to counter some of the negative perception over the CAB in the State.

**Influx fears**

The CAB aims at providing a path to Indian citizenship to Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Christians, Parsis and Buddhists fleeing religious persecution in India's neighbouring countries. With a porous border with Bangladesh, north eastern States are nervous that it could lead to an influx of Bengali Hindus.

## Right to worship is a civil right, says Hindu side

However, the CJI withdrew from the case. The one-line order said, "List the matter before a Bench wherein one of us, Justice Ranjan Gogoi (CJI) is not a member."

The CJI, lawyers in the case said, may have recused himself because of the paucity of time.

He heads the Constitution Bench, which is hearing the appeals all day from Monday to Friday. The Bench intends to finish the hearing by October 18.

The Navlakha plea then came up for hearing before another Bench comprising Justices N.V. Ramana, R. Subhash Reddy and B.R. Gavai on October 1. Though the expression of reluctance

to hear the case seems to have come from Justice Gavai in the courtroom, the court's order later showed that all the three judges did not want to hear the case. The one-line order read, "List on October 3 before a Bench of which none of us are members."

The petition then came up for admission before the third three-judge Bench.

Mr. Navlakha has moved the SC against the Bombay HC decision to reject the FIR against him in the Bhima Koregaon case.

On September 13, the High Court granted him protection from arrest for two weeks to approach the Supreme



Up in arms: Journalists protesting against the communication blockade in Srinagar on Thursday. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

## Scribes protest against blockade

Journalists stage sit-in to press for restoration of Internet, mobile phone services

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
SRINAGAR

Kashmir-based journalist organisations and editors' bodies on Thursday staged a silent sit-in protest at the Kashmir Press Club (KPC) to register their protest against continued denial to internet services and mobile telephony.

"The peaceful protest was to press for the restoration of Internet and mobile services to journalists as the communication blockade entered the 60th day on Thursday," said a joint statement of 11 organisations, including scribes' organisations and editors' bodies.

**'Muzzling the Press'**  
The statement termed the blockade an attempt to muzzle the Press in the valley.

### Civilian killed on LoC in Uri

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
SRINAGAR

One civilian was killed in a fresh violation of ceasefire by the Pakistan Army on the Line of Control (LoC) in Baramulla's Uri on Thursday, a day ahead of the separatist Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front's call for a march from Pakistan Occupied Kashmir

"Limiting the access of media to a government-run hall at a private hotel, designated as Media Facilitation Centre, is to prevent the information out of the Valley," it read.

The media centre has just nine computers and a cell-phone connection for over

towards Srinagar. An Army official said the civilian died of splinter injuries after Pakistan's shelling to the Rustom Post in the afternoon.

The identity of the deceased could not be established immediately. The Army said it retaliated in a "befitting manner".

400 journalists. "We have to queue up every day and spend hours together to file our reports. Wi-fi service is barred. Despite all journalists entering their names, no laptop is allowed to connect with the Internet service independently," a Kashmir

Working Journalist Association member, Ishfaq Tantray, said. No Valley-based dailies, including the prominent 'Greater Kashmir', or web portals, including the widely-read 'Kashmir Life', have updated their websites since August 5 due to inaccessibility to the Internet.

"There are no internet editions or updates on the web-portals in Kashmir," the statement added.

The Kashmir Press Club has held several rounds of talks with the authorities on the issue. "The authorities promised to restore mobile phone services and Internet two weeks ago. However, there is no headway. The government is silent on the timeline as to when the services will be restored," the KPC members said.

## Classes empty as schools reopen in J&K

Presence of security personnel keeps students, teachers away from classrooms

PEERZADA ASHIQ  
SRINAGAR

The J&K government on Thursday re-opened all higher secondary schools across the Valley, after 60 days of closure, only to a very negligible attendance by students, while teachers complained of several structures being occupied by the security forces.

Srinagar's prominent government-run Sri Pratap Higher Secondary School at Lal Chowk wore a deserted look, with no student presence on its sprawling campus. Just two students without uniform appeared from the nearby Barbar Shah area to know the status of the school.



Fear factor: An empty classroom at a school in Srinagar on Thursday. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

I was shocked to see a security bullet-proof picket come up at the gate. I was stopped by the security personnel and questioned. I immediately left the premises," the students said, on the

condition of anonymity. Top officials of the school told *The Hindu* that no attendance of students was recorded. "We have around 1,500 students in the school. A very negligible number

turned up. We decided not to hold any classes. However, teachers met to chalk out the future course of action," school authorities said.

The teachers said around 500 security personnel had been stationed at the main building of the school after the August 5 decision to revoke J&K's special status. "Security personnel need to be vacated so that students feel safe in the school," said a teacher.

There was a similar scene at the all-girls Government Koti Bagh Higher Secondary school, another prominent educational institution. "We are hopeful that attendance will improve in coming days," said an official.

## Railways will help achieve \$5 trillion economy goal'



A view of the Vande Bharat Express, which will ply from New Delhi to Vaishno Devi, Jammu. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

## Kerala prisoner calls home as Amphalla jail in J&K introduces inmate calling system

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
JAMMU

Kerala native Jatan, lodged in a jail in Jammu, heard the voice of his wife and minor daughter for the first time in nearly four years, thanks to authorities introducing a first-of-its-kind prison inmate calling system, which allows prisoners to make long-distance calls.

He is facing charges under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and is lodged in the dis-

trict jail Amphalla, which is the first prison in Jammu and Kashmir to get the facility along with modern interview rooms on the occasion of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. Chief Justice of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court, Gita Mittal, inaugurated the facilities on Wednesday evening in the presence of DGP (prisons) V.K. Singh and other senior civil and police officers.

A total of 587 prisoners are lodged in Amphalla jail in the city. Facing imprisonment thousands of kilometres away from his home town, Jatan was the first to utilise the inmate calling facility and he talked to his daughter who was just two months old when he was arrested in Jammu.

### 10-minute call

"My parents have visited me a few times over the past three-and-a-half years but this facility has reunited me with my wife and daughter, and I

am very thankful to the prison authorities for providing such a facility to us," Jatan told PTI after talking to his family for 10 minutes.

Jatan, who was working as a salesman at a jeweller shop in his city before his arrest, has now become a painter taking advantage of the efforts being made by the jail authorities for the reformation of inmates through different vocational training programmes and educational courses.

## Indo-Chinese educational tie-ups need nod from Home, foreign Ministries

The directive comes just ahead of Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to India

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Indian educational institutions that plan to collaborate with Chinese counterparts must now get clearance from the Ministries of Home and External Affairs before signing any agreements or undertaking student and faculty exchange programmes. The new guidelines would also apply to existing tie-ups, the University Grants Commission made clear this week.

The Centre's directive comes just ahead of Chinese president Xi Jinping's visit to India to hold an informal summit with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which is expected to take place at Mammallapuram on October 11 and 12.

In a letter to the vice chancellors of all universities, UGC secretary Rajnish Jain notified them of a directive from the Human Resource



Chinese students reciting a song during their National Day celebrations in Coimbatore recently. ■ M.PERIASAMY

Development Ministry. "In addition to other clearances, prior approval of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of External Affairs must be taken by all the academic institutions and universities before signing of MoUs, educational exchange programme, agreements, joint declaration of intent or letter of intent with Chinese institutions or universities," the ministry said in its directive.

The UGC letter added that those universities – including private universities – which have already entered into MoUs must seek clearance from the Home ministry for operating the MoU. Until the clearance is obtained, no further activities should be performed under the MoU, warned the letter.

## Clash breaks out among Matuas over NRC

One faction alleges false propaganda

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA

Two groups of followers of a Dalit sect had a fight on Tuesday on the possible effects of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in West Bengal, resulting in many injuries. This is for first time that the two sects of Matua Mahasangha, a socio-religious body of a predominantly Dalit refugee sect, the Matuas, fought publicly, "tarnishing" the image of the apolitical body, followers said.

About 40-45 lakh Matua voters are spread over nearly 50 of the 294 Assembly segments in West Bengal.

They alleged that their leader Sukriti Ranjan Biswas was also beaten up. The other faction, led by Mr. Thakur, denied the allegation.

"They [Ms. Thakur's faction] held the meeting in the venue even though we were scheduled to hold a meeting there. Moreover, they got Muslims to enter Thakurbari," said another disciple close to Mr. Thakur. He added that Ms. Thakur's faction was "spreading false news" about NRC despite BJP president Amit Shah's statement. "Mr. Shah said that there won't be any NRC in Bengal and they [Ms. Thakur's faction] were insisting that the BJP will push people out of the country, so we had to protest," the disciple said. The scuffle deeply disturbed the followers of the sect and one of the religious chiefs of a group, among the multiple bodies of Matuas, regretted the incident.

the area over the last few days against this meeting that was held to "build up resistance against the NRC".

Mr. Thakur's faction allegedly attacked Ms. Thakur's meeting, which took "a communal turn" as many Muslims were present. "They started shouting Jai Sri Ram and asked why Muslims are allowed to come inside Thakurbari [the headquarters]," the disciple said. They alleged that their leader Sukriti Ranjan Biswas was also beaten up. The other faction, led by Mr. Thakur, denied the allegation.

"They [Ms. Thakur's faction] held the meeting in the venue even though we were scheduled to hold a meeting there. Moreover, they got Muslims to enter Thakurbari," said another disciple close to Mr. Thakur. He added that Ms. Thakur's faction was "spreading false news" about NRC despite BJP president Amit Shah's statement. "Mr. Shah said that there won't be any NRC in Bengal and they [Ms. Thakur's faction] were insisting that the BJP will push people out of the country, so we had to protest," the disciple said. The scuffle deeply disturbed the followers of the sect and one of the religious chiefs of a group, among the multiple bodies of Matuas, regretted the incident.

## EOW arrests HDIL group directors Rakesh, Sarang

₹3,500 cr. assets attached provisionally

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

The Economic Offences Wing of the Mumbai Police on Thursday arrested Rakesh Wadhawan and his son Sarang, both directors of the Housing Development and Infrastructure Limited (HDIL) group, in connection with its ongoing investigation into the Punjab and Maharashtra Cooperative Bank.

The EOW had on Monday registered an FIR against managing director of PMC Joy Thomas, the Wadhawans and other officials of both organisations.

EOW sources said that the Wadhawans were called for questioning to the EOW office in Mumbai police headquarters in Crawford Market on Thursday.

"They could not provide satisfactory answers to the questions put to them. Further, a prima facie trail of money was established from the bank to their accounts, after which they were both arrested," Mumbai police spokesperson DCP Pranay Ashok said.

The Special Investigation

Team probing the case has identified 44 bank accounts connected to the case, he said, which are now being scrutinised.

The Wadhawans had mortgaged several of their properties in Vasai, Virar and Nallasopara as collateral for the loans, and teams will be sent to these properties. The EOW is also collecting documents pertaining to these properties.

**Shell companies**  
"We are trying to find out whether the same properties were also mortgaged fraudulently with other financial institutions so that they could get more money in the form of loans against them. Inquiries have also revealed that some of the loans taken from the PMC Bank were obtained through shell companies," the officer said.

On Thursday, the EOW also froze a demat account belonging to PMC chairman Warayam Singh, and provisionally attached assets worth ₹3,500 crore belonging to the HDIL group or the Wadhawans.

## KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED

CIN: U85110KA1970SCG001919

ABSTRACT BID NOTIFICATION

(Through e-Procurement Portal Only) Two Cover System)

No: KPCL/2019-20/PS/WORK\_INDENT8748/CALL-2 Date: 26.09.2019 KPCL invites bids through GOK e-procurement platform [www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in](http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in) from the qualified bidders for the work of Manufacture, supply, erection, Testing and commissioning of under slung EOT crane of 16T capacity for wagon tippler 2 of CHP-1 of Raichur Thermal Power station, including insurance towards transit risk/storage/ intra-site transportation for erection at site. Those who have not registered in e-procurement portal [www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in](http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in) may do so in order to participate in the bid. The brief bid Notification containing the pre-qualifying criteria for the bidders. EMD, calendar of bid activities and other details can be accessed from e-procurement portal. Further details can be had from the office of the Chief Engineer (Thermal Designs,) KPC Ltd, No. 22/23, Sudarshan Complex, 2nd floor, Sheshadri Road, Bengaluru-560 009. Tel.No: 080-2226223, Fax.No:080-2236517, email:cetd@karnatakapower.com, kpclctd@gmail.com, website: [www.karnatakapower.com](http://www.karnatakapower.com),

## BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure, East Division, 2nd Floor, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002

No.: EE/R/East/TEND/04/2019-20

Date : 03-10-2019

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)

(Through GoK e-Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure (East Division) on behalf of the Commissioner, BBMP invites tenders from eligible contractors for the below mentioned works.

SI. No.	Name of the Work	Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in lakhs)	EMD (Rs. in lakhs)
1	Improvement and asphaltting to Nandhidurga road from Jayamahal main road to millar road. (2nd Call)	177.00	2.70

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from GoK e-Procurement portal <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> on 04.10.2019. (2) Last date for submission of Tender through e-procurement portal on or before 18.10.2019 upto 4.00 PM. (3) Date of Pre-bid meeting : 10.10.2019 at 4.00 PM in the office of the Chief Engineer, RI, 4th Floor, Annex Building-3, BBMP Offices, Bengaluru-02. (4) Date of opening of Technical Bids: 21.10.2019 after 11.00 AM. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/- Executive Engineer, RI-East Division

"Pay development charges, help to develop Bengaluru"



A view of the Vande Bharat Express, which will ply from New Delhi to Vaishno Devi, Jammu. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

## Kerala prisoner calls home as Amphalla jail in J&K introduces inmate calling system

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
JAMMU

Kerala native Jatan, lodged in a jail in Jammu, heard the voice of his wife and minor daughter for the first time in nearly four years, thanks to authorities introducing a first-of-its-kind prison inmate calling system, which allows prisoners to make long-distance calls.

He is facing charges under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and is lodged in the dis-

trict jail Amphalla, which is the first prison in Jammu and Kashmir to get the facility along with modern interview rooms on the occasion of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. Chief Justice of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court, Gita Mittal, inaugurated the facilities on Wednesday evening in the presence of DGP (prisons) V.K. Singh and other senior civil and police officers.

A total of 587 prisoners are lodged in Amphalla jail in the city.

Facing imprisonment thousands of kilometres away from his home town, Jatan was the first to utilise the inmate calling facility and he talked to his daughter who was just two months old when he was arrested in Jammu.

### 10-minute call

"My parents have visited me a few times over the past three-and-a-half years but this facility has reunited me with my wife and daughter, and I



**ELSEWHERE**  
**Pak. PM to visit China to revive CPEC projects**

ISLAMABAD  
Prime Minister Imran Khan will visit China from October 7 to 8 to meet the country's top leadership and revive the stalled \$60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects, according to a media report. The first phase of CPEC are close to completion. But the progress on CPEC next phase projects have slowed. PTI

**FB suffers blow in EU court over hate speech**

LUXEMBOURG  
Facebook on Wednesday was dealt a major blow in the EU's top court, which ruled that national courts in Europe can order online platforms to remove defamatory content worldwide. EU regulators had sought U.S. tech giants to meet tightened European standards over hate speech and offensive content. AFP

**Bangladeshi soldiers 'rape' Rohingya girl**

DHAKA  
The Bangladesh military said on Thursday it has ordered an investigation after a Rohingya family in a refugee camp accused Army troops of raping a 12-year-old girl. The inquiry comes as around a million Rohingya in vast camps in Bangladesh face increasing hostility two years after fleeing a military offensive in Myanmar. AFP

**Pak., Taliban call on U.S. to resume peace talks**

ISLAMABAD  
Senior Afghan Taliban leaders and Pakistani officials on Thursday called for the resumption of talks to end the war in Afghanistan. The appeal was made during a rare Taliban visit to Islamabad, and comes after months-long U.S.-Taliban negotiations collapsed in September. AP

# EU sceptical of Boris Johnson's Brexit plan, wants it reworked

British PM hopes to seal an exit agreement at the October 17-18 EU summit

REUTERS  
BRUSSELS

European Union officials expressed doubt on Thursday that the latest British proposals on Brexit could yield an agreement before an October 31 deadline, with one saying Prime Minister Boris Johnson's plan "can't fly" as it stands.

But the bloc was careful not to dismiss the proposals too soon and both sides are treading carefully to avoid any blame should the tortuous divorce process end in a crash.

More talks between both sides' Brexit negotiators are due on Friday but the bloc has already made it clear that Mr. Johnson's plans – which principally involve arrangements for the border between EU member Ireland and the British province of Northern Ireland – are nowhere close to unlocking a deal.

They can only be a starting point to more talks, according to officials and diplomats dealing with Brexit in EU hub Brussels.

**Hard border**

"It does not contain any decent solution for customs. And it erects a hard border on the island of Ireland," said a senior EU official, saying the plan "can't fly" as it stands.

An EU diplomat said the plan would need to be fundamentally reworked to become acceptable. Time was short before EU leaders meet in Brussels on October 17-18 for a make-or-break Brexit summit, the person said.

Mr. Johnson hopes to seal an agreement then and take Britain out of the bloc two weeks later.



**Exit plans:** Boris Johnson speaking on the proposed Brexit deal in the House of Commons on Thursday. • AFP

said the latest draft of the lawmakers' statement seen by Reuters ahead of release.

"The BSG has grave concerns about the U.K. proposal, as tabled, both in terms of its content and timing."

In Dublin, Irish Junior Finance Minister Patrick O'Donovan said Mr. Johnson's offer was the basis for discussions but not of an agreement.

**Talk with Irish PM**

Jean-Claude Juncker, the head of the European Commission – the EU's executive negotiating Brexit for the other 27 member states – was due to talk to Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar later on Thursday.

The European Central Bank's Luis de Guindos said separately that markets may not be fully pricing in the negative impact of any disorderly Brexit.

"There are problematic points in the U.K.'s proposal and further work is needed. This work is for the U.K. to do, not the other way around," Commission spokeswoman Natasha Bertaud said.

Britain, however, stressed it was the EU's turn to move.

**No deal if U.K.'s offer is final, says Ireland**

REUTERS  
DUBLIN

If Britain's latest proposals for an agreement on leaving the European Union are its final offer, then a no-deal Brexit lies ahead, Irish Foreign Minister Simon Coveney said on Thursday.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Wednesday announced proposals focusing on how to avoid a hard border with Ireland.

"My judgement is that Boris Johnson does want a deal and that the paper that was published yesterday was an effort to move us in the direction of a deal. But... if that is the final proposal, there will be no deal," Mr. Coveney told Parliament.

"There are a number of fundamental problems with that proposal but I think it is also true to say there is a progression towards the space we need to be in other elements of the proposal," he added.

**Two problems**

The first is that there is no indication of how border infrastructure to deal with customs issues can be avoided. Secondly, it is unclear if the proposals would give Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party an effective veto.

"We cannot support any proposal that suggests that one party or indeed a minority in Northern Ireland could make the decisions for the majority," he said.

Facing possible removal from office precisely for seeking foreign help against his political challengers, Mr.

# Four officers killed in knife attack at Paris police HQ

Staffer behind the attack had issues with managers: report

REUTERS  
PARIS

A 45-year-old IT assistant at the police headquarters in central Paris went on a knife rampage inside the building on Thursday, killing three police officers and an administrative worker before he was shot dead by an officer, French officials said.

The officials declined to say what the motive was for the attack, which took place at lunch-time, and they said they were still trying to understand if there was a terrorist link.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Wednesday announced proposals focusing on how to avoid a hard border with Ireland.

"My judgement is that Boris Johnson does want a deal and that the paper that was published yesterday was an effort to move us in the direction of a deal. But... if that is the final proposal, there will be no deal," Mr. Coveney told Parliament.

"There are a number of fundamental problems with that proposal but I think it is also true to say there is a progression towards the space we need to be in other elements of the proposal," he added.

**Criminal incident**

Jean-Marc Bailleul, a police union leader, described the incident as criminal rather than an act of terror. "It was a moment of madness" Mr. Bailleul told BFMTV.

The area around the police headquarters, which is close to Notre-Dame Cathedral, was sealed off and a metro station was shut for security reasons as the attack unfolded.



**Crime scene:** Police cordoned off the area near the Paris police headquarters on Thursday. • AFP

"He had never presented any behavioural issues, he had never presented the slightest cause for alarm before going on his deadly rampage today," Mr. Castaner said.

A police official and member of the collective "Police up in Anger", which lobbies for better conditions for officers, was quoted by Franceinfo radio as saying the assailant had experienced issues with his supervisor.

"I know there were tensions between him and his direct supervisor," Christophe Crepin told Franceinfo. "I do not think this is a terrorist act."

# Trump asks China to probe Bidens

REUTERS  
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump called on China as well as Ukraine to investigate his potential 2020 election rival Joe Biden, doubling down as Democrats began an impeachment inquiry against him.

"We cannot support any proposal that suggests that one party or indeed a minority in Northern Ireland could make the decisions for the majority," he said.

Facing possible removal from office precisely for seeking foreign help against his political challengers, Mr.

Trump said he wanted Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky and Chinese leader Xi Jinping to go after Biden.

"I would say that President Zelensky, if it were me, I would recommend that they start an investigation into the Bidens," Mr. Trump said. "If they were honest about it they would start a very simple investigation on the Bidens," he said.

"Likewise, China should

start an investigation into the Bidens, because what happened in China is just about as bad as what happened with Ukraine."

Asked if he would ask Mr. Xi to do the same, he replied, "It's certainly something we can start thinking about."

Mr. Biden's campaign called Mr. Trump's comments a "grotesque choice of lies over truth and self over the country."

# Scottish whisky, French cheese come under U.S. trade tariffs

Duties come after WTO ruling that Airbus got undue subsidies

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
WASHINGTON

From whisky and wine to parkas and cashmere sweaters, the U.S. has released a list of imported European products slapped with tariffs in the battle between Washington and Brussels over aircraft subsidies.

Washington announced it would put a 10% tariff on large civil aircraft imported from the four European partners of Airbus – Germany, France, Spain and the U.K. – after Wednesday's World Trade Organization (WTO) decision that ruled the company received undue subsidies.

The Trump administration intends to hit French, Spanish and German wines

– exempting Hungarian Tokay – as well as the U.K.'s Irish and Scottish single-malt whiskies.

Cheeses from across Europe, including pecorino, stilton and cheddar – which is specifically exempted – will be taxed under the new rules.

Olives, olive oil and musts from Spain will also face the 25% tariff, as will Germany's coffee – both caffeinated and decaffeinated.

Made in England cashmere, woolen anoraks and bed linen will have the 25% surcharge added, while Germany's exports of industrial tools will be affected.

"We'll keep going until the government falls," pledged

# 28 die in anti-government rallies in Iraq

Disenchanted youth demand jobs, services and an end to endemic corruption

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
BAGHDAD

Thousands of protesters clashed with riot police in Iraq's capital and across the south on Thursday, the third day of mass rallies that have left 28 dead.

Defying curfews, tear gas and live rounds, they gathered to vent their anger against corruption, unemployment and poor services in the biggest challenge yet to Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi.

As dusk fell in Baghdad, crowds swelled around the capital's oil and industry ministry, pledging to march to the capital's emblematic Tahrir (Liberation) Square.

"We'll keep going until the government falls," pledged



**Growing unrest:** Security forces closing a bridge leading to the Green Zone as protesters demonstrate in Baghdad. • AP

22-year-old Ali, an unemployed university graduate.

"I've got nothing but 250 lira (20 U.S. cents) in my pocket while government officials have millions," he said.

Most demonstrators car-

ried the Iraqi tricolour while others brandished flags bearing the name of Hussein, the Prophet Muhammad's grandson and a revered figure in Shiite Islam.

Riot police and Army troops fired at the ground

from automatic weapons mounted on military vehicles, the bullets ricochetting into the crowd.

The three days of demonstrations have left 28 people dead, including two police officers, and over 1,000 people have been wounded.

More than half of those killed in the last three days have been in the southern city of Nasiriyah, where six protesters were shot dead and dozens wounded on Thursday.

Nearby Amarah has also seen bloodshed, with medics and security sources reporting four protesters shot dead on Thursday.

Later, two protesters and a police officer were killed in Diwaniyah.

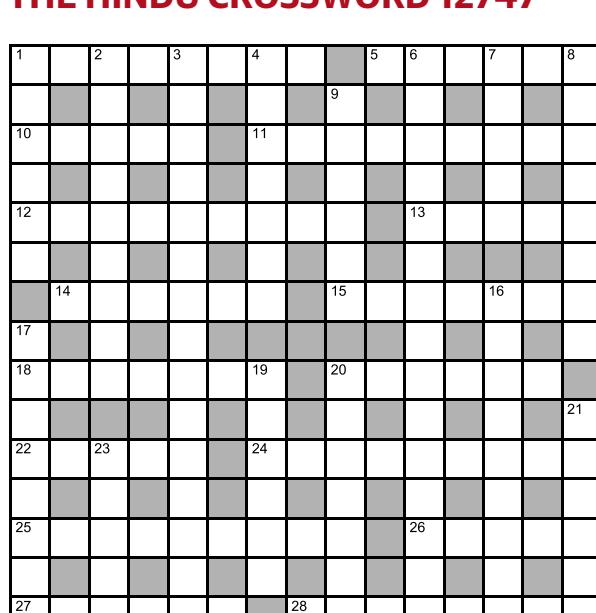
# Hong Kong likely to ban face masks

REUTERS  
HONG KONG

Hong Kong has loosened guidelines on the use of force by police as it struggled to stamp out anti-government protests that have rocked the Asian financial hub for nearly four months, according to documents seen by Reuters on Thursday.

The city is also expected to ban face masks, media reported. The loosening of restrictions on the use of force came into effect shortly before some of the most violent turmoil seen in the protests on Tuesday, with police firing about 1,400 rounds of tear gas and protesters throwing petrol bombs and sticks.

## THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12747



**ACROSS**

- 1 What a fisherman might do to get a percussion instrument? (8)
- 5 Display cut over top of point (6)
- 10 Inn and house leased on retirement (5)
- 11 Secretary's back to go over main point before start of rehearsal (9)
- 12 Concernment from venereal problem around college (9)
- 13 Looks after saint about to embrace death (5)
- 14 Jewelled crowns from India stolen by rogue around a square (6)
- 15 Vain President abandoned course of action with anger (7)
- 18 Issue about man pursuing model boiled over (7)
- 20 Pastry in bowl contains a topping of nuts (6)
- 22 A warning around river – no longer anchored (5)
- 24 Want to capture leader of insurgents and confine for string of offences (5,4)
- 25 Leave quickly and frantically seek lad taking daughter on date (9)
- 26 Love to sleep around? Model is available (2,3)
- 27 Craved and ended up consuming ecstasy (6)
- 28 Basic construction of triangle (8)
- 29 Invictive prince trapped foreign correspondent (3,3)
- 30 Old magistrate, reviewing incessantly, confines rogue at last (5)

**DOWN**

- 1 Associate in firm, sexually attractive, concealing a little rump (6)
- 2 Sycophant in plot to suppress a report (9)
- 3 Select detectives to probe mysterious assassination of President (6)
- 4 Blunder including son in assignments (7)
- 5 What a postman might do to try to achieve more than seems possible? (4,3,8)
- 6 Expert wearing an item of clothing (5)
- 7 Worried stiff about idiot on ecstasy (8)
- 8 Associate goes to collect long sheath for shoelaces (6)
- 9 New train set assembled without delay (9)
- 10 One killing with impudence in a crime (8)
- 11 Detectives to probe mysterious assassination of President (6)
- 12 Determined to preserve essence of ancient outdoor theatre (5-2)
- 13 Leave in the lurid (5)
- 14 Rude (5)
- 15 Potent ale (5)
- 16 Throw round off (5)
- 17 Tosser (5)
- 18 Potent ale (5)
- 19 Potent ale (5)
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- 28 Potent ale (5)

## SUDOKU

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## MARKET WATCH

	03-10-2019	% CHANGE
Sensex	38,107	-0.52
US Dollar	70.87	0.28
Gold	39,115	0.90
Brent oil	57.45	-3.73

## NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	403.90	-0.15
Asian Paints	1748.95	-17.15
Axis Bank	668.40	-10.75
Bajaj Auto	2897.90	-12.10
Bajaj Finance	8446.45	-11.90
Bharti Airtel	344.90	-6.05
BPCL	531.60	37.70
Britannia Ind	2902.95	-16.60
Cipla	418.10	5.45
Coal India	186.75	-7.35
Dr Reddy's Lab	2677.15	-12.20
Eicher Motors	18284.65	-457.80
GAIL (India)	131.70	-1.20
Grasim Ind	679.65	-13.50
HCL Tech	1076.80	17.25
HDPC	1974.55	-21.10
HDFC Bank	1233.55	-25.25
Hero MotoCorp	2667.45	-20.90
Hindalco	182.60	-7.15
Hind Unilever	1962.05	-28.25
ICICI Bank	427.30	2.70
IndusInd Bank	1255.50	-42.55
Bharti InfraNet	248.25	-0.75
Infosys	785.60	-7.95
Indian Oil Corp	151.75	3.20
ITC	261.65	5.75
JSW Steel	221.55	-1.10
Kotak Bank	1615.75	-32.45
L&T	1458.05	-6.00
M&M	562.70	6.00
Maruti Suzuki	6754.05	-27.95
Nestle India Ltd.	13709.85	28.30
NTPC	116.75	-0.30
ONGC	128.10	-0.10
PowerGrid Corp	199.10	2.60
Reliance Ind	1311.05	6.15
State Bank	254.15	-1.80
Sun Pharma	388.15	1.60
Tata Motors	122.40	7.10
Tata Steel	339.60	-11.95
TCS	2060.25	0.30
Tech Mahindra	702.50	-2.45
Titan	1295.50	14.90
UltraTech Cement	4146.80	-65.80
UPL	594.40	-0.55
Vedanta	144.40	-6.90
Wipro	235.85	2.35
YES Bank	42.50	10.50
Zee Entertainment	251.55	18.40

## EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	70.68	71.00
Euro	77.52	77.87
British Pound	87.05	87.45
Japanese Yen (100)	66.11	66.41
Chinese Yuan	8.89	9.92
Swiss Franc	70.72	71.04
Singapore Dollar	51.91	51.43
Canadian Dollar	53.03	53.27
Malaysian Ringgit	16.88	16.96

Source: Indian Bank

BULLION RATES CHENNAI	October 03 rates in rupees with previous rates in parentheses
Retail Silver (1g)	49.3... (47.7)
22 ct gold (1g)	3630... (3556)

+ Rajat Monga resigns from Yes Bank

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI  
Rajat Monga, senior group president and one of the veterans of Yes Bank, has quit citing personal reasons, the lender's MD and CEO Ravneet Gill informed investors in a conference call.

Mr. Monga had been with Yes Bank since its inception in 2004. "He has left on account of personal reasons. Recent developments had taken a toll on his health and he had decided to move on, according to Mr. Gill," Macquarie wrote in a note.

Meanwhile, the bank is in advanced stages of capital raising from investors, including global tech majors, to grow the balance sheet that has been consciously shrunk in recent months, said Mr. Gill.

(With PTI inputs)

CG Power shares soar on 'revival talks'

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI  
Shares of fraud hit CG Power and Industrial Solutions touched the upper circuit limit of 5% to close at ₹14.04 on Monday on reports that a Sunil Bharti Mittal-led firm wanted to lead the revival of the company.

Mr. Mittal held 8.3% in the company through Bharti (SBM) Holdings Pvt. Ltd. as of June 30. He is learnt to be in talks with other investors to infuse capital for a turnaround, according to a source in the know of the development.

"The discussion with lenders is to recast the loans as the new investors are not willing to pay for fraud done by promoters of the company," the source added.

CM YK

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI  
The initial public offer (IPO) of Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC), which closed for subscription on Thursday, has created a record in terms of the highest-ever subscription for a public issue of a government-owned company.

As per NSE data, the public issue, that aims to raise ₹645 crore, was subscribed nearly 112 times with bids received for 225.61 crore shares against 2.02 crore shares on offer in the price band of ₹315 to ₹320.

As per data from Prime Database, this is the first time ever that an IPO of a public sector undertaking (PSU) has been subscribed more than 100 times. In 2017, the public issue of Housing & Urban Develop-

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As per data from Prime Database, this is the first time ever that an IPO of a public sector undertaking (PSU) has been subscribed more than 100 times. In 2017, the public issue of Housing & Urban Develop-

ment Corporation (HUDCO) was subscribed nearly 79 times. In the same year, Cochin Shipyard public issue was subscribed 75.59 times.

Last year, the IPO of Rites Ltd. got subscribed nearly 67

times. Meanwhile, the IPO of IRCTC witnessed strong demand from all categories of investors.

The portion reserved for high net worth individuals was subscribed over 354

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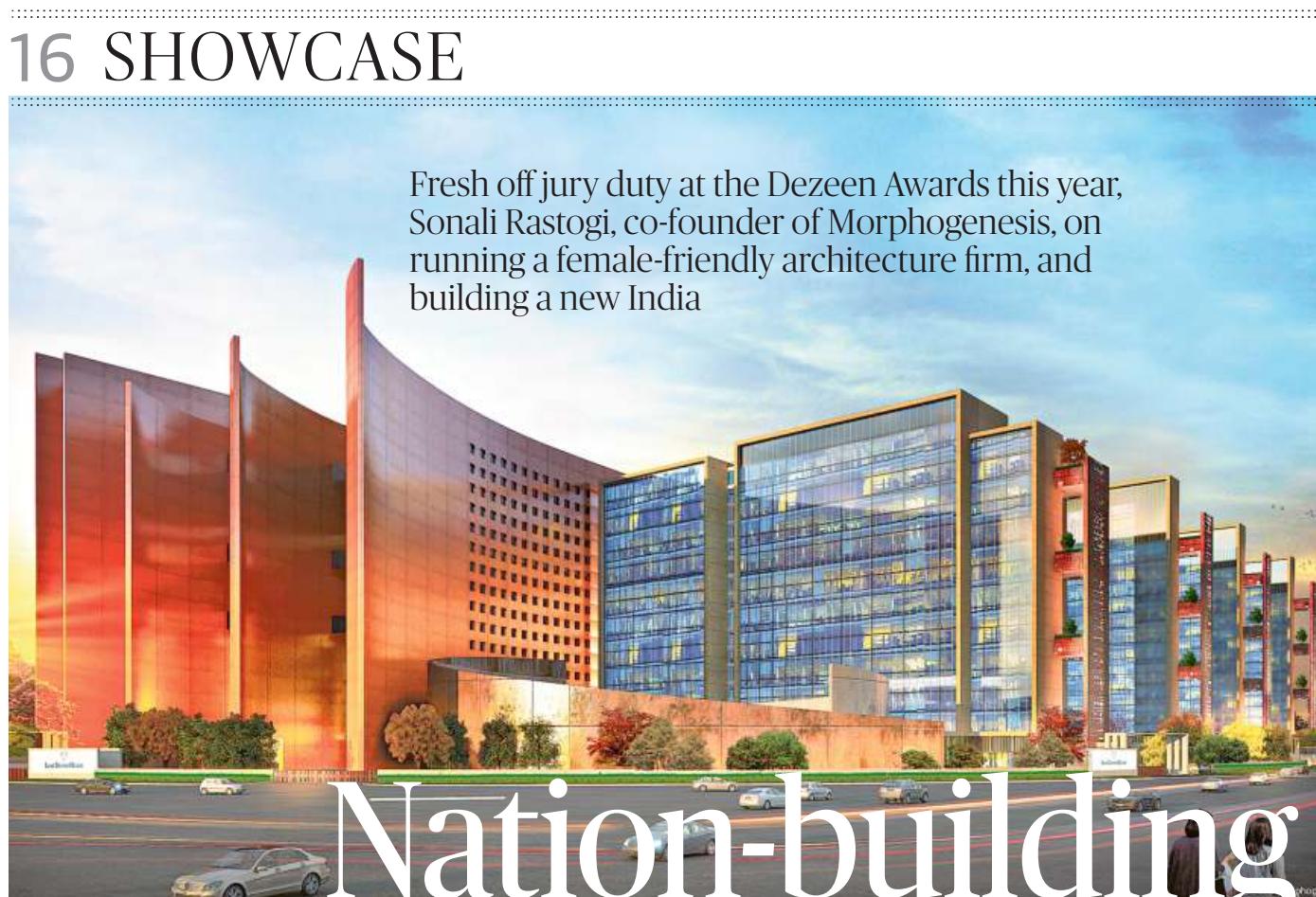
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Fresh off jury duty at the Dezeen Awards this year, Sonali Rastogi, co-founder of Morphogenesis, on running a female-friendly architecture firm, and building a new India



**Surat Diamond Bourse in numbers**

**2018**  
start date

**2021**  
expected completion

**\$310,000,000**  
total cost

**35.5**  
acres

**620,000 sqm**  
built area

**15 acres**  
of resort-style landscape

**22 kms**  
of circulation space

**65,000**  
people

**10,000**  
cars

**~4,500**  
offices

# Nation-building aesthetics

VANGMAYI PARAKALA

This is the eighth consecutive year that Morphogenesis, a Delhi-based architecture firm, has made it to the World Architecture 100. The annual list is a compilation of the largest architecture practices in the world, by Building Design Magazine in the U.K.

2019 marks 10 years since Morphogenesis, which is headed by Sonali and Manik Rastogi and is now 23 years old, became the first Indian firm to win at the World Architecture Festival, held that year in Barcelona. "WA is like the Oscars for the architecture and design industry," says Sonali, who was on the jury at the second annual Dezeen Awards this year, the winners for which will be announced online by mid-October.

Back in India, Sonali spoke about her firm's philosophies and how they align with their upcoming big-ticket projects. Edited excerpts.

## Being on WA 100 for eight consecutive years. What does that mean?

Why WA 100 gives me pride is that Indian firms would earlier never feature. Because firms here would never get to be of a certain [size], which is a condition to even be considered. Also, earlier, smaller boutique firms were the call of the day. But scale becomes important for a nation-building

exercise. For a first-generation firm, achieving this scale is a big source of pride.

## It's emerged that your pay gap is skewed marginally in favour of women...

We were surprised to have pay parity such that it is 2% more on the side of women. That's unheard of! Even we were surprised. When we looked through the data, we realised it's because women stay here (in the company) longer here, and naturally they accrue better benefits.

## Why do women stay on longer with your firm?

It's the small reasons – and all of [these practices] are very easy to absorb in other architectural firms or informal work environments. For instance, an extended maternity leave. It's crazy to think how on the one hand we are [advocating] breast milk for the baby's wellness, but you still insist on thinking that just three months later, the child will be weaned off. It's illiterate to think that women can come back to work like this. It's more likely to make her leave. And then there's a soft grooving back into work. Because you can't be breast-feeding one day, and then disappear on your baby for 10 hours the next. We allow for a comfortable groove back into work the way they're comfortable.

## Does the WA100 ranking give you access that's difficult otherwise?

Absolutely. It puts you on a global playing field. It makes you a [firm] of choice when discussing the future of architecture. It puts you on a judging platform, where you decide, with other equals from around the world, about the next steps for the community. Our choices would then give cues and icons for the next generation to pick up on. It makes you a change-maker; that's the vision with which this firm was set up.

## How are you aligning your philosophy of using local design practices with your SMART City projects for Aligarh and Port Blair?

In Aligarh, an old town, you have to fix what is broken, to bring back accepted norms of urban design and town planning. In Port Blair whatever was developed was very little, so it is a great place for intervention, and allows us to set a new framework for how the island should develop from here-on in a way that keeps environmental sensitivity, cultural continuity.

In Aligarh for example, we revitalised an abandoned lake, where people used to keep throwing junk, into a lake with a community centre that people want to go to. We are dealing with over-crowded roads, hawkers, and un-

organised car parking. So we work with ideas of digital parking meters, backed with timing-specific data, and provide liveable alternatives for today's vendors and their customers.

## Morphogenesis takes inspiration from ancient architecture. How do you bring elements of that into modern design?

About 10 or so years ago, an image from the studio, of using *matkas* for insulation in one of our projects, became popular. Everyone got caught in the romantic notion of traditional methods. The finished building, which is the Pearl Academy of Fashion in Jaipur, won various awards, including World Architecture Festival Award (Learning), in Barcelona, 2009.

Basically when we studied the region, we learnt that double *chhatris* were built with *kulhar* in between for insulation – because they didn't have an insulating foam like today. The finished building has a completely contemporary look, just a different style of insulation, which worked better than much more expensive synthetic insulation. It gave work to potters, too.

I'd like to separate aspirational aesthetics from whether the same can be achieved in an environmentally sustainable way. Most things can be.

You've used similar principles at The British School in Delhi. Is the model replicable in schools with smaller budgets too?

The first thing that [working like] this achieves is that it makes everything cheaper. Pearl Academy of Fashion in Jaipur is the cheapest project this firm has done. Similarly, The British School is simple *kota* stone and ceramic tiles, paint-plaster walls, and small panes of glass. Plus, simple things – like a central courtyard format design, where you get tempered air from the courtyard and air movement in the corridor – brought the air-conditioning load down to about one-fourth of what it would've been.

Given that you're a part of the Delhi Urban Arts Commission (DUAC), have you thought about pushing forward such a proposal for any municipal buildings?

The government itself came up with a good initiative some years ago, which said that for all government projects, a 4-5 star rating on the GRIHA (Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment), which is a very good green rating system in India, is mandatory. British School is the first 5-star rated on this.

Your upcoming Surat Diamond Bourse project has been billed as the largest single office space in the world. Can you talk about this project?

Firstly, it's amazing that the world's largest such project is getting made in India, and so silently. If it were being made anywhere else in the Western world, it'd have been on stamps by now. The project itself is a community-funded one. It's not the world's biggest developer making a mall and monetising it. This one big mammoth of a building is not just a place of work for 65,000 people – it's those many people and their families. All this is happening because of this one building, which also reflects the nuances and cohesiveness of a community, which has managed to control about 90% of the world's diamonds in some form. One of their first briefs was that they wanted trading efficiency, which comes from how quickly they can get from one place in the building to another.

We convinced the clients that the corridors don't need to be air conditioned, it just needs a tempered environment, which we've done through sustainable methods, like shading and radiant cooling, which is simply about using water to create cooling in these 22-km long corridors.

## FOOD SPOT

# The appam eaters

Lovers of the fluffy rice pancake can have their fill at Thalaivar's new location



RAHUL VERMA

I have become a bit of an appam fiend. "Give appam, shall eat," is my new mantra. That's why, when I heard that a south Indian restaurant had opened up in Hauz Khas, my ears perked up. So last Sunday, I landed up there with family.

Thalaivar, as the restaurant is called, is in the Hauz Khas Market. It was there

earlier, on the first floor of the market, but has recently moved to its grand new premises on the ground floor of the small market. The chef is from Bengaluru, and his wife cheerfully helps diners navigate the menu. I could tell that some of the patrons that afternoon were regulars, while a few were walk-ins, who needed hand-holding.

I knew what I wanted, of course: Appam, with Pepper Chicken (₹325). Along with that, we asked for Parottas and Roast Mutton (₹355), Mutton Keema Dosa (₹220) and Prawn Roast (₹325). The food is cooked fresh once or

dered, so we knew we had to wait a bit for the mains to arrive. Meanwhile we had the prawns, which were crunchy and delicious. The masala – with curry leaves and chillies – was nice and spicy.

Then came the main dishes. I concentrated on the appam, which I had with some of the Mutton Roast. The roast, in a thick gravy, was delicious; the curry was wonderfully fragrant and

had just the right balance of spices, and the meat was truly melt-in-mouth. I savoured the flavour of the pepper in the gravy, and the mild sweetness of fried onions. I then tried out half a parotta with the Pepper Chicken. The chicken, which was essentially small boneless pieces in mildly hot gravy – was tender, and the gravy went well with the crispy

and flaky Parottas. I ended my meal with a last bite of the Appam and the Mutton Roast, wiping the last of the gravy with a piece of the soft appam, and popping it happily into my mouth.

The Keema Dosa, I am sorry to say, left us all cold. The keema was alright – cooked as it should have been – but somehow the batter of the dosa was a bit too sweet, which didn't work well with

## Authenticity matters

Appam; interiors of Thalaivar

• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

the minced meat.

But the other dishes were simply superb. For breakfast (the place opens at 11 a.m.), it offers a host of dishes including Egg Appam (₹110) and Masala Ham Egg Appam (₹150).

Then they have Idlis with Kori Ghassi (₹265) and Mysore Masala Dosa (₹160).

The helpings are good, and our table of four had a nice meal. Did I say four? Sorry,

one among us was on a Navratri fast, and merely had some cold coffee.

Thalaivar is a pleasant and sunny place, with a helpful and smiling staff. The walls are covered

with some cheerful portraits of Thalaivar – aka Rajini-Kanth.

We had a good time – uncle, aunt, niece and nephew. Fast notwithstanding.

The writer is a seasoned food critic

## HORS D'OEUVRES

### Experimenting with flavour

Glenfiddich's brief to their India brand ambassador, Angad Singh Gandhi was simple: to create a sensorial experience around the whisky, while keeping its flavour intact. After visiting eight laboratories that work with flavours and elixirs for the food and beverage industry, Angad decided to work with Malabar Secrets, a spice-flora extracts brand. "We wanted to create something that was not too overpowering, something that would complement the 12-year-old whisky," he says.

Together they created three: Sweet Obsession, Dufftown Confluence and Bittersweet Symphony. The first has notes of clove, coriander and six other spices; the second has cinnamon and bitter orange; while the third has Mysore jasmine, clove, and quinine. "Pepper is very important in any elixir and holds the flavour together," says Angad, adding that they've used both black and cayenne. The idea was to put together a box that could be taken to a table in a bar so people can experiment with building their own drink, at no extra cost. In the box is a spiced honey which adds another layer to the flavour.

Contact us at [delhimetro@thehindu.co.in](mailto:delhimetro@thehindu.co.in)



## 5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



EXHIBITION

**Mixed media**  
Meghalaya artists Careen J. Langsteih and Conrad Syiem have put together a joint exhibition titled "Kynmaw: to remember, memories, to take note, to bear in mind". Careen's series showcases portraits of women, while Conrad's work is a Cyanotype photographic print technique.  
**VENUE:** Art Gallery, Annexe Building, IIC  
**TIME:** 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.



FOOD

**Navratra bowl**  
SodaBottleOpenerWala, a food chain that specialises in Parsi and North Indian cuisine, is offering a special bowl for Navratri. This bowl consists of Sabudana Khichdi, Sukhi Masala Arbi, Aloo ki Sabzi, Vrat ka Pulav, Cucumber and Mint Salad with Masala Makhana, Raw Banana Chips, and Pomegranate Raita.  
**VENUE:** All outlets in Delhi/NCR  
**TIME:** 12 noon - 11 p.m.



MUSIC

**Gunjan Sabha**  
Ustad Imamuddin Khan Dagar Indian Music Art & Culture Society is organising the Gunjan Sabha Verse 54. Eminent Urdu Shaira Ameeta Parsuram 'Meeta' will be in conversation with poet, Azhar Iqba. Following this, ghazal singers, Oshin Bhatia and Brijesh Mishra will render ghazals composed by Ameeta Parsuram.  
**VENUE:** CD Deshmukh Auditorium, IIC  
**TIME:** 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.



FOOD

**Navratra special**  
The restaurant Zambar has a special platter for the Navratri period. On until 7th October, this special vegetarian thali will have dishes like Sabudana Vada, Pumpkin Erissery, Tomato Rasam, Paneer Masala, Samak Appam, Sabudana Kheer, along with Sabudana Papad and Cucumber Salad.  
**VENUE:** Zambar, Ambience Mall, Gurugram  
**TIME:** 12 noon - 4 p.m.



RETAIL

**Good Earth Mela**  
The third edition of Good Earth's festive shopping mela, called Schezade Mina Bazaar will start today. This three-day mela will showcase silhouettes like chogas, shararas, kurtas and lehangas accentuated with zari, resham, dabka-pitta. The mela will see participation from labels like Pero, Artisau, and Tilla.  
**VENUE:** Good Earth Store, Khan Market  
**TIME:** 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

FILM REVIEWS

# War: on Hindustan's secret service

In this battle of intelligence agents, there's plenty to feast on with Hrithik Roshan and Tiger Shroff



**Guns and poses:** War gains much from the chemistry between Tiger Shroff and Hrithik Roshan. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

NAMRATA JOSHI

Somewhere in the middle of *War*, intelligence agent Neha (Anupriya Goenka) coquettishly tells her boss Kabir (Hrithik Roshan) that she is willing to elope and get married to him, were he to ask her. To which agent Khalid (Tiger Shroff) with eyes bashfully down, a shy smile playing on his lips, tells her to fall in line.

All with an unmistakable and cute proprietorial air; not reserved for Neha mind you, but for Kabir. So, to put it straight and simple, *War* gains much from the chemistry between Khalid and Kabir, nay Shroff and Roshan, that sets the screen smoking and sizzling, be it a

dance-off, facing the enemy's bullets together, engaging in bare handed (and bare-chested) duels or racing on bikes and cars in chases through scenic cobbled streets or cold expanse of ice.

Their perfect consonance and well matched tuning and rhythm makes them one of the best on screen couples in recent times. The loving glances and longing looks that they constantly throw at one another, seem to spell much more than an innocent bromance.

Not that anyone is complaining. Certainly not when the buff, tanned Roshan scorches the screen by merely walking across it or towards the audience. His glares on,

and swagger supported ably by rippling muscles with just the right sprinkling of salt in the peppery hair. All this complete with the tricolour fluttering away in the corner of a very fetching desi *Top Gun* frame.

The fit and fluid Shroff

is just as effective with his lightning fast moves and sharp chops. So much so that I didn't even realise the total absence of the heroine, Vaani Kapoor, until the interval. "I don't think anyone will look at me," she had said in an interview about working with Roshan and Shroff.

Quite right. She is almost inconsequential in this tale of an agent trying to nab and wage a war against his mentor who

has turned rogue, even as India itself needs to be saved from the terror of the dreaded villain Rizwan Ilyasi. So does Kapoor break the cosy Roshan-Shroff partnership? Far from it. She makes the obligatory bikini-clad entry and does little else in the film other than bringing in a tiny plot twist.

What works for *War* is that it's able to mix some giddy elements of the Hindi spy thrillers (*Aankhen*, 2002; *Agent Vinod*, 2012)—like hidden lairs, blown covers, tapped phones, deadly poison, hidden transmitters, mistaken identities—and give it a modern spit and polish.

There is the across the globe chase through many fetching locations—from

**War**

**DIRECTOR:** Siddharth Anand

**CAST:** Hrithik Roshan, Tiger Shroff, Ashutosh Rana, Vaani Kapoor, Anupriya Goenka

**STORYLINE:** An intelligence agent wages a war against his mentor who has turned rogue, at a time when India needs to be saved from the terror of the dreaded villain Rizwan Ilyasi.

panoramic Connaught Place in Delhi to Malta, Marrakesh, Portugal, to some that are spectacular even in their destruction like Tikrit. There are some electrifying and astonishingly executed action sequences—in the air, earth, ice and water, and not just on airplanes but flying jeeps too.

All of which, makes *War* nifty enough to be in the league of the Bond or Hollywood films and many notches higher than the high profile actioners from Yashraj's own stable like *Ek Tha Tiger* (2012) and *Tiger Zinda Hai* (2017).

Despite there being nothing new and everything predictable about it, *War* is slick and smart and keeps the audience engaged and absorbed.

What irks is the nth iteration of a Muslim trying to prove his loyalty for Bharat. The good Muslim shoves in to balance out the global Islamic terror. Why do it so needlessly and thoughtlessly when the film is successful enough in its larger aim of providing "entertainment, entertainment, entertainment"?



**Mirror mirror:** Joaquin Phoenix's brilliant performance as Joker. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

# (Joaquin) Phoenix from the ashes

Joker stuns with visual craft and an outstanding lead performance

DEBORAH CORNELIOUS

Hurt people, hurt people. This tale, as old as time, forms one of two overarching themes in *Joker*, that kicks off DC's Black series, standalone features non-canonical to the original DC Universe. Though Batman has been around for 80 years, *Joker* made his first appearance simply a year after the caped crusader crashed into collective pop culture. But every adaptation—animated, feature or otherwise—has featured the villain with varying and often disparate, origin stories. The 2019 Todd Phillips attempt, for the first time, dedicates an intense character study to the super villain, made famous by Heath Ledger in *The Dark Knight* (2008).

Relayed over two hours, *Joker* chronicles the rise of the green-haired snarl-faced psychopath with an insatiable appetite for destruction. Set in decrepit Gotham, the film focuses on the life of Arthur Fleck (Joaquin Phoenix), a wannabe stand-up comedian who's never felt a moment of happiness in his entire life. His days are marred with struggles as a clown for hire, caring for his ailing mother and receiving blow after blow, literally from the callous and cruel.

Director Phillips works with a screenplay he co-wrote with

**Joker**

**DIRECTOR:** Todd Phillips

**CAST:** Joaquin Phoenix, Robert De Niro, Zazie Beetz, and Frances Conroy

**STORYLINE:** Arthur Fleck just wants to make people happy, but society does everything it can to hurt him

Scott Silver, using a decaying society as a metaphor for the times we live in.

The rich stomp on the dreams of the poor, while those particularly vulnerable, like the mentally ill, continue to be neglected and eventually plummet over the edge of sanity. True though the allegory may be, Phillips' plea to sympathise with a straight white man's collapse to crime is stretched. It's a dangerous fine line when the result is the violent rallying of the disenfranchised. The director's incessant desire to elicit pity for a character so abused, eventually implodes on itself.

Instead, its echoes all those times criminals have snatched lives of the innocent as an outlet to their outrage.

*Joker*'s morality is highly questionable, but the film's best is Phoenix. If Ledger gave life to the maddening violence of the character, an emaciated Phoenix in *Joker*, gives the villain a

humanity we never thought possible. His transformation from misunderstood to murderous abandon is sublime. The yearning of dreams fulfilled and a parent who never was, is seen in every sincere hopeful smile. Equally evident is the distinct shift in his perception to becoming reckless.

It's with the actor that Phillips exhibits brilliant sleight of hand, never crossing over to indulgence. Better yet is the director's construction of Gotham, crafting an atmosphere of grim despondency. Lawrence Sher's cinematography is visually stunning, luring a viewer into the fictional city. Drawing cues from Martin Scorsese's *The King of Comedy* (1983)—featuring Robert Di Nero as a mentally unstable comedian—Phillips' use of tragic humour hits home immediately.

Even the film's music deserves a special mention, whose incongruity would never make important moments as impactful: from Frank Sinatra's 'That's Life' to Cream's 'White Room' and Gary Glitter's 'Hey Song'. Phillips probably intended *Joker*'s social commentary to leave audiences with a lasting impression. Thankfully, its diluted and confused message is vastly overshadowed by an outstanding performance by Phoenix.

POOCH CAFE



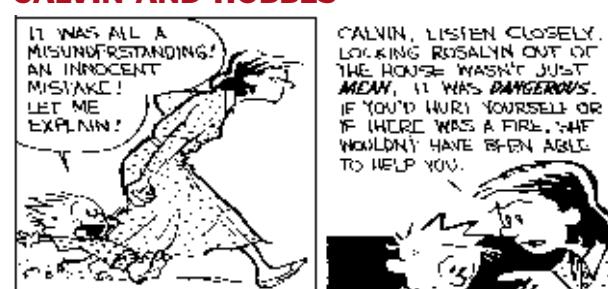
PEANUTS



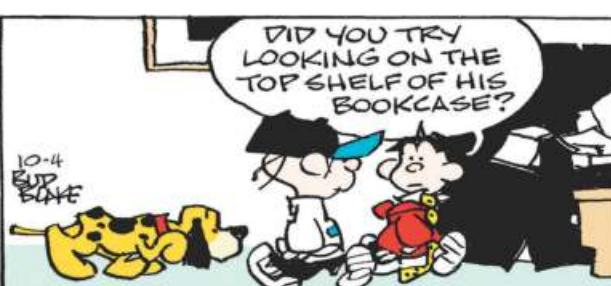
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



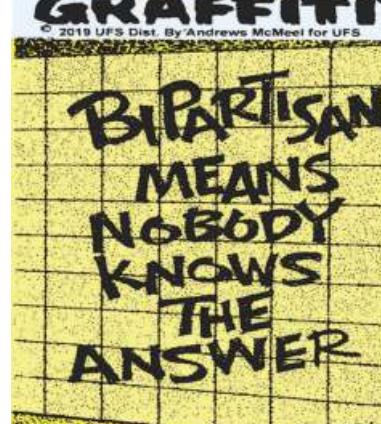
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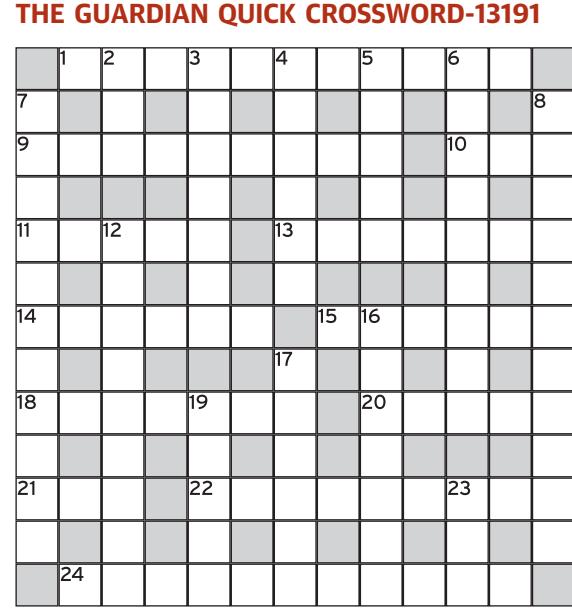
TIGER



GRAFFITI



THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13191



5 Ballroom dance (for two?) (5)  
6 Look into again (2-7)  
7 Reference (11)  
8 Submit (4,3,4)  
12 Good person who helps another in distress (9)  
16 Solutions (7)  
17 Highly emotional film (6)  
19 Tolerate (5)  
23 Atmosphere (of a melody?) (3)

Solution will appear in The Hindu dated October 5, 2019.  
Solution No.13190

WUMO



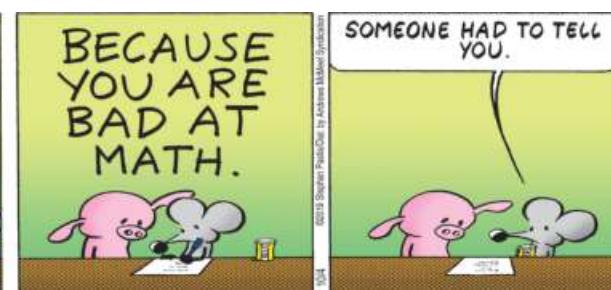
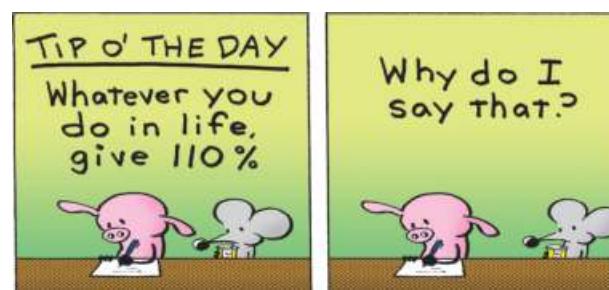
HEALTH CAPSULES



- Across
- 1 Consisting of small disconnected parts (11)
- 9 Annexe (9)
- 10 Sheep (3)
- 11 Shocking weapon (5)
- 13 Animal – per load (anag) (7)
- 14 Imitates satirically (6)
- 15 Lurid (6)
- 18 Give a spoken account (7)
- 20 Well-groomed (5)
- 21 Perform(ance) (3)
- 22 Invoke evil – crime tape (anag) (9)
- 24 Needless (11)
- Down
- 2 Furrow caused by wheels (3)
- 3 Applicable to an entire class (7)
- 4 Fit to eat (6)

E	S	T	U	A	R	Y	B	L	O
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C	T	N	A	N	A	N	N	N	N
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O	P	A	T	H	A	D	E	S	S
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PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



# Mayank, spinners have South Africa on the mat

The opener converts his maiden Test hundred into a double while Rohit scores 176; Ashwin and Jadeja then make inroads



**Gradual progression:** Mayank Agarwal played himself in, rotated the strike, and then unleashed the big shots against South Africa on Thursday. ■ K.R. DEEPAK

## SA IN INDIA

S. DINAKAR  
VISAKHAPATNAM

From the ground here you can glimpse stretches of the Eastern Ghats that dot the coastline. It's a wonderful sight of nature adding to cricket's lure.

Perhaps, Mayank Agarwal was inspired by the mountains. For the opener conquered a peak, converting his maiden Test hundred into a double.

Playing only in his fifth Test, Mayank – organised, focussed and clinical in execution – progressed to 215 against South Africa on the second day of the first Freedon Test here on Thursday.

And India, on a surface beginning to play tricks and increasingly assist spinners, declared at a mammoth 502 for seven and then made inroads.

### Flight and drift

R. Ashwin spun one back in to Aiden Markram to pierce the gate and rearrange the stumps and then had Theu-

nis de Bruyn flummoxed by a delivery of tantalising flight and drift; keeper Saha revealed safe hands. Moments later Ravindra Jadeja prised out nightwatchman Dane Piedt. The Indian celebrations had begun.

The core of the Indian innings was a 317-run opening partnership between Mayank and Rohit Sharma in 82 overs; the third highest first wicket Test association for India.

And Rohit's 176 was high on entertainment and skill. He also displayed application combating the new ball.

Mayank and Rohit combined admirably reading the different passages of play well. The Indian think-tank sees possibilities in this opening combination.

### Steely determination

For someone who has fought hard for his opportunities, there is this steely determination in Mayank. He is not young at 28, but the scars of a relentless struggle have prepared him well.

Against the Proteas here,

he saw off the new ball, played himself in, rotated the strike, accelerated gradually, and then unleashed the big shots.

Importantly, Mayank played through sessions, kept his concentration going and built a monument. Temporarily, he has in plenty.

He used his feet against spin, an inside-out off-drive off Keshav Maharaj was a top shot. Soon he skipped down to loft the left-arm spinner for a six.

### Technique & composure

Mayank played out the second new ball and handled both Rabada and Philander with technique and composure. Then, when the team required quick runs, he accelerated, boldly smoking the ball over the man at covers, sweeping and reverse sweeping.

This was an innings when Rohit, despite his strokeful methods, attempted to play closer to his body against the pacemen.

Yet, Rohit had a slice of luck in the morning when

## STAT SPHERE

1 Rohit and Mayank have hit the highest number of sixes (12) as an opening pair in a Test innings

Most sixes by openers in a Test innings

12 Rohit (6)-Mayank (6) vs SA, Visakhapatnam, 2019

- 11 Hayden (11)-Langer vs Zim, Perth, 2003-04
- 11 McCullum (11)-Latham vs Pak, Sharjah, 2014-15

1 This is the first time two openers from a country other than England and Australia have made centuries in the same innings against South Africa

2 Mayank is the second Indian to score a double century as an opener in Tests, after Sehwag (293 vs Sri Lanka, Brabourne, Mumbai, 2009)

2 Mayank is the second batsman to register a double hundred in his first innings on Indian soil, after Dean Jones (210 vs India, Chennai, 1986)

3 Number of Indian openers have registered a 300-plus stand in Tests. This is only the 14th

300-plus opening partnership in history

300-plus opening stands for India

413 Pankaj Roy-Vinoo Mankad vs NZ, Chennai, 1956

410 Sehwag-Dravid vs Pak, Lahore, 2006

317 Rohit-Mayank vs SA, Visakhapatnam, 2019

3 This is Mayank's third 200-plus score in First Class cricket after the 304<sup>th</sup> for Karnataka vs Maharashtra (2017) and 220 for India-A vs South Africa-A (2018)

3 Muthuswamy becomes the third bowler, after Rabada and Alzari Joseph, to have Kohli as his maiden Test wicket

4 Number of Indian batsmen who have converted their maiden Test hundred into at least a double ton

■ Dilip Sardesai 200\* vs NZ, 1965

■ Vinod Kamli 224 v Eng, 1993

■ Mayank Agarwal 215 vs SA, 2019

■ Karun Nair 303\* vs Eng, 2016

86 Mayank is the 86th Indian to register a Test century. It is also the 510th hundred for India



Philander got a delivery to deviate away from a good length and 'keeper Quinton de Kock, standing up, could not snaffle a thin nick.

### Switching gears

Rohit, on 125 then, soon switched gears, and went after the spinners. The bat speed, the suppleness of wrists, the quickness of feet and the ability to pick length were his allies as he destroyed spin.

And much like Virender Sehwag, Rohit harnesses the pace on the ball of the quicker bowlers with sharp reflexes, deft touch, and an inborn sense of placement.

The South African attack took a pounding before Rohit fell to a clever piece of bowling from the tireless Maharaj. The left-armer, who had been bowling faster through the air, finally sent down one with flight and turn.

Going forward, Rohit missed and de Kock whipped off the bails. The dismissal showed how important it was for spinners to vary their trajectory and impart revs against the Indian batsmen.

Cheteshwar Pujara, per-

haps playing down the wrong line, was bowled by a Philander delivery, with the second new ball, that shaped away slightly.

### Disbelief

And then, Virat Kohli stood with disbelief after he missed a ball, that kept a tad low and spun away, back to gleeful bowler Senuram.

Muthusamy. It was the debutant left-arm spinning all-rounder's first Test wicket.

India lost wickets in pursuit of runs. But then, Mayank raising his arms in triumph after reaching a much-cherished double century was the enduring image of the day.

Good things happen to people who wait.

## SCOREBOARD

### INDIA - 1ST INNINGS

Mayank Agarwal c Piedt b Elgar 215 (371b, 23x4, 6x6), Rohit Sharma st. de Kock b Maharaj 176 (244b, 23x4, 6x6), Cheteshwar Pujara b Philander 6 (17b, 1x4), Virat Kohli c & b Muthusamy 20 (40b, 4x4), Ajinkya Rahane c Bavuma b Maharaj 15 (43b, 2x4), Ravindra Jadeja (not out) 30 (46b, 1x6), Hanuma Vihari c Elgar b Maharaj 10 (24b, 1x4), Wridhiman Saha c Muthusamy b Piedt 21 (16b, 4x4), R. Ashwin (not out) 1 (17b); Extras (b-4, lb-1, nb-2, w-1); Total (for seven wkts. decl. in 136 overs): 502.

### FALL OF WICKETS

1-317 (Rohit, 81.6 overs), 2-324 (Pujara, 88.1), 3-377 (Kohli, 103.1), 4-431 (Rahane, 117.6), 5-436 (Mayank, 119.4), 6-457 (Vi-

### SOUTH AFRICA - 1ST INNINGS

Dean Elgar (batting) 27 (63b, 2x4, 1x6), Aiden Markram b Ashwin 5 (27b, 1x4), Theunis de Bruyn c Saha b Ashwin 4 (25b, 1x4), Dane Piedt b Jadeja 0 (4b), Temba Bavuma (batting) 2 (7b); Extras (lb-1); 1; Total (for three wkts. in 20 overs): 39.

### FALL OF WICKETS

1-14 (Markram, 7.1), 2-31 (de Bruyn, 16.3), 3-34 (Piedt 17.3).

### INDIA BOWLING

Ishant 2-0-8-0, Shami 2-2-0-0, Ashwin 8-4-9-2, Jadeja 8-1-21.

# As an opener you have to set the tone: Mayank

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
VISAKHAPATNAM

Mayank Agarwal's double hundred here saw the opener showcasing different aspects of his batmanship.

The Karnataka batsman said he accelerated after reaching the three-figure mark for the first time in his fledgling Test career.

Mayank said here on Thursday, "After 100, I started pushing. Having crossed that milestone put some nerves at ease and then playing on this wicket for some time gave me confidence."

Mayank, always a team man, said, "You just have to back yourself and contribute to the team. It is very clear in the side that it is not only about big runs, it is about winning crucial situations. If you do that, nothing like it. As an opener you have to set the tone for your side."

On his massive 317-run opening partnership with Rohit Sharma, Mayank said, "For him to get such a big score opening the batting for the first time is tremendous. We all really enjoyed the way he batted. The way he took on the spinners, the way he paced his innings."

### Communicating well

He added, "It was great batting alongside him. It was good that we could get such a big partnership for India early on. We communicated well."

Mayank said, "We were quite happy with the way we were batting and it was good that we were able to manipulate the field. They started to bowl on the pads and it

was nice to get a couple of boundaries to make them shift the fielders. Then I reverse swept."

About the little adjustments he had to make in different conditions, Mayank said, "In Australia there is more bounce so you have to stand a bit more upright. India, like we saw, the ball started keeping a bit low."

**Long distance running**  
Mayank revealed long distance running helped in his fitness. "This has enabled me bat for long periods."

Mayank, always a team man, said, "You just have to back yourself and contribute to the team. It is very clear in the side that it is not only about big runs, it is about winning crucial situations. If you do that, nothing like it. As an opener you have to set the tone for your side."

South Africa left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj said, "Obviously, we knew it was going to be quite flat in the first innings and the wicket would then deteriorate. Having said that, yeah, didn't go according to plan in terms of controlling the run rate."

Maharaj said, "I think the cracks have been opening up a little bit because of the heat around. So there is a little bit of assistance coming through now as opposed to when we started or say the first day and a half. Toss plays a part in matches here but we could have been better in what we did."

He said, "These are still early days in Mayank's Test career but he batted with a lot of maturity."



**Beaten all ends up:** Aiden Markram is bowled by a beauty from R. Ashwin. ■ K.R. DEEPAK

# India crushes South Africa

The bowlers, backed by agile fielders, restrict visitors to 98

## SA-WOMEN IN INDIA

P.K. AJITH KUMAR  
SURAT

They fielded like tigresses. They bowled like misers. They batted like pros.

The Women in Blue are getting better and better in the shortest format. The South Africans made them look even better as they slid to their third defeat as many matches at the Lalbhai Contractor Stadium in front of another full house on a pleasant Thursday night. The Indians went 3-0 up, with a match to play on Friday.

After restricting the visitors to 98 for eight, the hosts romped home with plenty to spare – five wickets and 17 balls.

It was never going to be a difficult chase and skipper Harmanpreet ensured that there were no hiccups. She remained unbeaten on 34 off 32 balls.

Her fourth-wicket partnership of 50 with Deepthi Sharma, who had an excellent all-round game, calmed



**Guiding hand:** Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur ensured that India crossed the finish line with plenty to spare. ■ VIJAY SONEJI

the nerves in the dressing room when India lost the third wicket at 29. The South Africans had an opportunity to put behind them the horror show on the field in the last game, but there weren't enough runs on the board to do that.

Earlier, Harmanpreet's decision to bowl first was vindicated.

The Indians were also helped by some poor batting from the visitors. On this night, though, they were given a reasonable start by Li-

selle Lee and captain Sune Luus, who promoted herself in the order. They, however, struggled to get going.

When Lee broke the shackles, stepping out to smash, off-spinner Deepthi above her head and sweeping her over square-leg, in the fifth over, it looked as though the Proteas might be able to put up a substantial score for the first time in the series. That was not to be.

It was another sparkling show by the Indian spinners under a starless sky.

# BCCI election – first 'D Day' today

G. VISWANATH  
MUMBAI

The cricketing fraternity with interest in BCCI's administration and election will get a chance to mull over the probable line-up of the pioneering nine-member Apex Council that will replace, until recently the powerful, Working Committee once the electoral officer N. Gopalswami releases the Draft Electoral Roll at 5 p.m. on Friday.

While announcing the

election schedule on September 26, Gopalswami asked the 37 full members (Chandigarh is an associate member without voting rights) to submit applications to have their representatives for the general meeting / election to be held here on October 23.

Not only will the election be held for five office-bearers (president, vice-president, secretary, joint secretary, treasurer) and one member representing the BCCI Full

members, but also for two members to the IPL Governing Council.

After examination of objections, if any, the final electoral roll will be released on October 10. A clear picture of the candidates for eight positions will be known on October 16. With CoA running BCCI's affairs from January 2017, there is plenty of buzz around even among club level members of a large number of States about the BCCI, finally, taking charge of the

AGM. The CoA believes it has the authority to decide on the eligibility aspect for the member association and its representative, but the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA) has asserted that the Supreme Court has not given such authority to the CoA. The electoral officer has said that he will go by the CoA mandate.

## TV PICKS

**India v South Africa:** 1st Test, third day, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 9.30 a.m.  
**Hero Women's Indian Open golf:** DSport, 12.30 p.m.  
**NBA:** Sony Ten 1 & 3 (SD & HD), 7 p.m.  
**India (W) v South Africa (W):** Fifth T20I, Star Sports 1 (HD) & Star Sports 3, 7 p.m.  
**PKL:** Star Sports 1; Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.  
**IAAF World Championships:** SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Star Sports 3, 10.30 p.m.

## IN BRIEF

**Puneri Paltan pips Telugu Titans**

PANCHKULA  
 Puneri Paltan edged out Telugu Titans 53-50 in a closely-fought Pro Kabaddi League match on Thursday. The defeat meant Telugu Titans' chances of making it to the playoffs came to a halt with UP Yoddha securing the final spot in the top six.  
**The result:** Puneri Paltan 53 (Manjeet 12, Sail 11) bt Telugu Titans 50 (Rakesh Gowda 17, Farhad Milagharden 10).

**Saumitra to meet Nandini in final**

GURUGRAM  
 Second seed Saumitra Jagadeo Verma fought her way past Raja Sarvagna Kilaru 6-4, 7-6(2) in the girls semifinals of the Asian under-14 tennis tournament on Thursday.  
**The results:**  
**Boys, semifinals:** Siddharth Marathe bt Dhrumit Kumar 6-1, 6-2; Vanish Nandal bt Harsh Fogata 3-6, 6-2, 6-1.  
**Girls, semifinals:** Nandini Dixit bt Riya Sachdeva 3-6, 6-1, 6-3; Saumitra Jagadeo Verma bt Raja Sarvagna Kilaru 6-4, 7-6(2).

**Bopanna and Divij out of Japan Open**

TOKYO  
 Rohan Bopanna and Divij Sharan, partnering different players, lost in the doubles quarterfinals of the Japan Open here on Thursday.  
**The results**  
**Japan Open (quarterfinals):** Nikola Mektic & Franko Skugor (Cro) bt Denis Shapovalov (Can) & Rohan Bopanna 6-4, 5-7, [11-9]; Nicolas Mahut & Edouard Roger-Vasselin (Fra) bt Artem Sitak (Nzl) & Divij Sharan 7-6(5), 6-3.

**\$25,000 ITF men, Tay Ninh, Vietnam: Second round:** Yan Bai (Chn) bt Sidharth Rawat 6-1, 6-3; Nam Hoang Ly (Vie) bt Manish Suresh Kumar 6-3, 7-6(9).  
**\$15,000 ITF women, Pretoria, South Africa: Second round:** Caroline Romeo (Fra) bt Sri Vaishnavi Peddi Reddy 6-2, 6-4; Tina Nadine Smith (Aus) bt Snehal Mane 6-0, 6-2; Zeel Desai bt Alexandra Riley (USA) 6-1, 6-2.

**Thumping win for men's hockey team**

ANTWERP  
 The Indian men's hockey team outclassed Belgium 5-1 in the fifth and final match and maintain a 100% record in their tour of Belgium.  
**The result:** India 5 (Simranjeet Singh 7, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay 35, Vivek Sagar Prasad 36, Harmanpreet Singh 42, Ramandeep 43) bt Belgium 1 (Alexander Hendrickx 39).

**Vijay Goel elected DBSA president**

NEW DELHI  
 Vijay Goel and Ravi Tandon were elected president and secretary of the Delhi Billiards and Snooker Association. Other office-bearers are A.K. Garg (treasurer), Amarjeet Singh, Abhishek Rastogi and Amit Sharma (vice-presidents); H.S. Bhogal and Aayush Bansal (joint-secretaries).

**Rahul stars for PCA**

NEW DELHI  
 Man-of-the-match Rahul Bhalla (four for 18) helped Players Cricket Academy (PCA) defeat Mount CC by three wickets in the first round of the 12th Pelicans (under-16) cricket tournament here.

**The scores:** Mount CC 151 in 34 overs (Divesh Negi 40, Rahul Bhalla four for 18, Kavya Gupta three for 16) lost to Players Academy 152 for seven in 30.1 overs (Yajesh Sharma 59, Kavya Gupta 30).

**Haryana CA office-bearers**

NEW DELHI  
 The Haryana Cricket Association elected its new office-bearers on Thursday. The list: President: Kultar Malik; Secretary: Mrinal Ojha; Treasurer: Mahender Singh.

## Goveas to meet Kunal in semifinals

Top seed Niki Poonacha will face former National champion Dalwinder Singh

## NATL. TENNIS

**KAMESH SRINIVASAN**  
NEW DELHI

Second seed Aryan Goveas had to fight his way past Suraj Prabodh for a 6-3, 6-7(5), 6-3 win in the men's quarterfinals of the Fenesta National tennis championship at the DLTA Complex on Thursday.

Aryan, slowly getting into his rhythm, was able to play with intensity at the crunch to shut the escape routes for the sweet-stroking Suraj, who had made the final two years ago.

The 20-year-old was on top of his game in the first set, but Suraj fought back in the second to stay on par. Aryan had a chance to close the match in the second set tie-break as he led 4-2, but erred.

In the decider, Aryan served big and unleashed strong strokes to pull through without much drama.

In the semifinals, Aryan will play Kunal Anand, who got past former Asian junior



**Powerhouse:** Vaidehi Chaudhari has dropped only five games in all to her three opponents so far. ■ KAMESH SRINIVASAN

champion Nitin Kumar Sinha in the second set tie-break.

**A bout of nerves**  
 Kunal felt a bout of nerves as he missed two match points at 6-3 in the tie-break, but stroked clean to emerge victorious.

The other semifinal will feature top seed Niki Poonacha and former National champion Dalwinder Singh.

Dalwinder was quite sharp and explosive in overcoming the strong challenge from Ishaque Eqbal, who

failed to capitalise on a 5-3 lead in the second set.

Niki, in contrast, had a relatively easy against S.D. Prajwal Dev.

## Fluent

In the women's section, Jagmeet Kaur was quite composed and played a fluent game to beat second seed Bhuvana Kalva in straight sets.

Jagmeet will challenge four-time national champion Preerna Bhambri in the semifinals. The other semifinal will be between top seed

Sowjanya Bavisetti, who saw off the challenge from Salsa Aher, and favourite Vaidehi Chaudhari.

Vaidehi has dropped only five games in all to her three opponents so far.

**The results: Men: Quarterfinals:** Niki Poonacha bt S.D. Prajwal Dev 6-4, 6-3; Dalwinder Singh bt Ishaque Eqbal 6-4, 7-5; Kunal Anand bt Nitin Kumar Sinha 6-3, 7-6(5); Aryan Goveas bt Suraj Prabodh 6-3, 6-7(5), 6-3.

**Doubles: Semifinals:** Ishaque Eqbal & Mohit Mayur bt Suresh Dhakshinwar & Parikshit Somani 6-4, 2-6, [10-7]; Niki Poonacha & S.D. Prajwal Dev bt Sali Haware & Rishabh Agarwal 6-1, 6-4.

**Women: Quarterfinals:** Sowjanya Bavisetti bt Salsa Aher 6-2, 6-2; Vaidehi Chaudhari bt Srawita Shivani Chikalapudi 6-1, 6-1; Preerna Bhambri bt Shreya Tatavarthy 6-2, 7-5; Jagmeet Kaur bt Bhuvana Kalva 6-4, 6-2.

**Doubles: Semifinals:** Yubarani Banerjee & Sai Samitha bt Rishika Sunkara & Sowjanya Bavisetti 6-2, 5-7, [10-8]; Sai Deepya & Saravada Yadav bt Anusha Kondaveeti & Dakshita Patel 6-3, 3-6, [10-6].

## Vijay Hazare Trophy scores

**Group C (Jaipur):** Bihar 126 in 42.2 overs (Sachin Kumar Singh 44 no.) lost to Gujarat 128 for three in 19.1 overs (Priyank Panchal 40)

■ Railways 285 for six in 50 overs (Dinesh Mor 70, Arindam Ghosh 64, Karn Sharma 40, Umar Nazir three for 53) lost to Jammu & Kashmir 287 for six in 49.1 overs (Perva Rasool 118 no., Shubham Singh Pundir 38, Abdul Samad 36, Himanshu Sangwan three for 66).

■ Rajasthan 265 for four in 50 overs (Mahipal Lomror 79, A.R. Gupta 56, R.K. Bishnoi 42 no.) lost to Bengal 266 for five in 49 overs (Abhishek Kumar Raman 122 no., Abhimanyu Easwaran 66, Bishnoi three for 49).

## Friday's matches (9 a.m. start)

## ELITE: Group A (Bengaluru):

Chhattisgarh v Goa, Hyderabad v Mumbai

## Group B (Vadodara):

Baroda v Delhi, Haryana v Odisha, Himachal Pradesh v Uttar Pradesh

## Group C (Jaipur):

Jammu & Kashmir v Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh v Services, Rajasthan v Tripura

## Plate (Dehradoon):

Assam v Chandigarh, Mizoram v Uttarakhand, Nagaland v Puducherry

## Carmelita Jeter named event ambassador

## HALF MARATHON

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Carmelita Jeter will be the international event ambassador for the 15th Airtel Delhi Half Marathon 2019 scheduled for October 20.

Jeter holds the record for the second-fastest timing in 100m (10.64 seconds) behind Florence Griffith-Joyner.

The 39-year-old Jeter clinched gold in the 4x100m

relay, silver in the 100m event and bronze in the 200m event at the 2012 Olympic Games.

"It's an honor for me to be a part of this most prestigious half marathon as its event ambassador. It's amazing to see amateurs focus on running technique and train with passion, for a fitter lifestyle."

"I look forward to the complete experience and I am eager to watch runners on the 20th of October," Jeter said.

## PNB bests BSES to take honours

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Punjab National Bank won the 12th all-India Maharashtra Ranjit Singh hockey tournament here on Thursday, edging past a fighting BSES, Delhi, in the shootout after the teams were tied 3-3 in regulation time.

BSES went ahead 2-0 before PNB fought back in the final quarter of the game, scoring thrice to level the game and take it into shootouts.

With a 3-1 lead and two minutes to go, BSES looked set to clinch the title but two penalty corner conversions in the last two minutes saw PNB turn the tables at the National Stadium.

In the shootout, PNB managed to score from all their four attempts while BSES could only manage two. Mohit and Pankaj missed for the runner-up.

**The result (final):** PNB 3 (Abhishek 2, Dinesh Sekar) bt BSES 3 (Pankaj, Pawan Malik, Lokesh Bora) on penalties.

"It was a bit of a mixture. I made a lot of birdies out there and was fought really positively, thought I could have got some more. Back nine was very different from the front nine," said the Brit.

Norway's Mrianne Skarpnord shot 68 to be tied third with Liz Young of England.

Linda Wessberg of Sweden

## Focus on Olympic weight divisions

## NATL. BOXING

**Y.B. SARANGI**  
BADDI (HIMACHAL PRADESH)

With about four months to go for the Asian Olympic qualifier, the focus will be on the Olympic weight divisions in the National boxing championships, starting at the Baddi University of Science and Technology, here from Friday.

As per the selection criteria finalised by the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) for the qualifiers, two World championships medalists — Amit Panghal (52kg) and Manish Kaushik (63kg) — have already selected themselves for the Asian qualifier in Wuhan, China, in February.

In the remaining six weights — 57kg, 69kg, 75kg, 81kg, 91kg and +91kg — selection trials will be held

among boxers who competed in the World championships (and are exempted from participating in the Nationals), the finalists here and a top performer in each weight.

"There will be keen contests in Olympic weights. The fight will be also be good in 52kg and 63kg. If Amit and Manish don't qualify, then others may get a chance in the next (World) qualifier," said National head coach C.A. Kuttappa.

"Since the focus is on the Olympics, certain weights have been aligned with that of the Tokyo Games. Instead of 51kg, 56kg and 64kg, we are having 52kg, 57kg and 63kg respectively."

Former World youth champion Sachin Siawich, who jumped from 52kg to 57kg and beat Worlds me-

dallist Gaurav Bidhuri in the Railways selection trials, and Commonwealth Games bronze medalist Mohammed Hussamuddin from Services promise a strong battle in the bantamweight.

## Prominent pugilists

Besides, World medallist Shiva Thapa (63kg), reigning 52kg National champion P.L. Prasad, National 60kg silver medallist Ankush Dahiya (now in 64kg), another National silver medalist Dinesh Dagar (69kg) who upset an Olympic medal holder Rohit Tokas (now in 75kg) and promising Services man Lalampua (75kg) and Commonwealth Games medalist Naman Tanwar (91kg) will be some of the prominent boxers in action.

## Rajat Sharma is DDCA representative

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Rajat Sharma was on Thursday chosen to represent the Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA) in the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

DDCA joint secretary Rajan Manchanda said, "It's unfortunate that some people started a negative campaign with their own vested interests in mind, thus tarnishing DDCA's image."

## No ambiguity

"We have all been very clear right from the beginning that Mr. Sharma will be our sole representative in the BCCI. The resolution read 'We, the members of Apex Council of the DDCA, hereby convey our complete and unequivocal trust in the leadership of Mr. Rajat Sharma, President,

In a resolution passed by the apex council, 11 out of 15 members, backed Sharma. The resolution read "We, the members of Apex Council of the DDCA, hereby convey our complete and unequivocal trust in the leadership of Mr. Rajat Sharma, President,

## Meghan and Whitney in joint lead

A fairly impressive day for the Indians

## INDIAN OPEN

**ANANT KAUR**  
GURUGRAM

England's Meghan McLaren and Whitney Hillier of Australia carded five-under 67 in hot and humid conditions to be in joint lead at the end of day one of the Hero Women's Indian Open at the DLF Golf and Country Club here on Thursday.

## Good start

Meghan, who loves this course and believes it suits her game, had a good start with birdies in the first two holes but bogeyed on the fourth. On the back nine, she made four birdies.

"It was a bit of a mixture. I made a lot of birdies out there and was fought really positively, thought I could have got some more. Back nine was very different from the front nine," said the Brit.

She hopes for a better score on Friday. "I was doing okay until I got to 17th, just

got really unlucky where my ball finished. 17th hole can cause so many problems but I have been fairly lucky at the 17th hole over so many years but this year got my number there.

"I was thinking a level par score would be a decent score not too far from the lead but this finish ruined my day. I just hope to get a revenge tomorrow," Becky told *The Hindu*.

Indians

## IN BRIEF



## Astronaut to watch rugby match from space

TOKYO The Rugby World Cup will have its first extra-terrestrial broadcast when South Africa's game against Italy is beamed to the International Space Station — 408 km above Japan, organisers said on Thursday. Governing body World Rugby is providing a special feed of Friday's game for Italian astronaut Luca Parmitano, who is a fan. AFP



## 'Sinatra of the East' Karel Gott dies at 80

PRAGUE Czech pop singer Karel Gott, who was a particular favourite in neighbouring Germany where media once dubbed him the "Sinatra of the East", has died at 80, his family said. Gott had revealed last month he was undergoing treatment for leukaemia, years after recovering from cancer. PTI



## Judge denies bail for R. Kelly in sex abuse case

NEW YORK R&B singer R. Kelly was denied bail on Wednesday in his New York City sex-abuse case after a judge agreed with prosecutors that freeing him from jail would create a risk of him fleeing or tampering with witnesses. U.S. District Judge Ann Donnelly denied a defence motion asking to release him on bond and allow home detention. AP

## A few good men



**Here to stay:** Actor Dev Patel with child actors Ranveer Jaiswal, right, and Jairaj Varsani at the premiere of *The Personal History Of David Copperfield* during the London Film Festival on Wednesday. Patel plays the grown-up Copperfield while Jaiswal plays the character as a child.

■ TIM P. WHITBY/GETTY IMAGES/BFI

## Duo brings fado music out of closet

Portugal's traditional style of folk song gets a new twist from the band

## AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

LISBON

Wearing a long black wig, fishnet stockings and a miniskirt, "Lila Fadista" wafts a fan in front of his beard as he sings about the gay community's pain and revolt in lyrics not heard before in fado, Portugal's traditional style of folk song.

Tiago Lila, his real name, is performing alongside band mate Joao Cacador, who also breaks fado tradition by strumming an electric guitar rather than a 12-string acoustic one.

Hiding under a large felt hat, only Cacador's leopard print trousers and stiletto shoes are plainly in view.

Together, the duo makes up the band "Fado Bicha", which translates from Portuguese as "Fado Queer".

Although not widely known among the general public, they have toured Por-

## U.K. particle accelerator could reveal secrets of ancient scrolls

2,000-year-old artefacts are being analysed by powerful rays of light

## AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

DIDCOT

A leading science facility in the English countryside is helping in a bid to decipher Roman-era scrolls carbonised in the deadly eruption of Mount Vesuvius nearly 2,000 years ago.

Researchers led by antiquities decoder Professor Brent Seales have turned to Diamond, Britain's national synchrotron in Didcot, Oxfordshire, to examine the papyri, which are described as "fragile like butterfly wings".

They hope the synchrotron — which harnesses the power of electrons to produce powerful scans — could now end a decades-long effort to read the historic artefacts owned by the Institut de France.

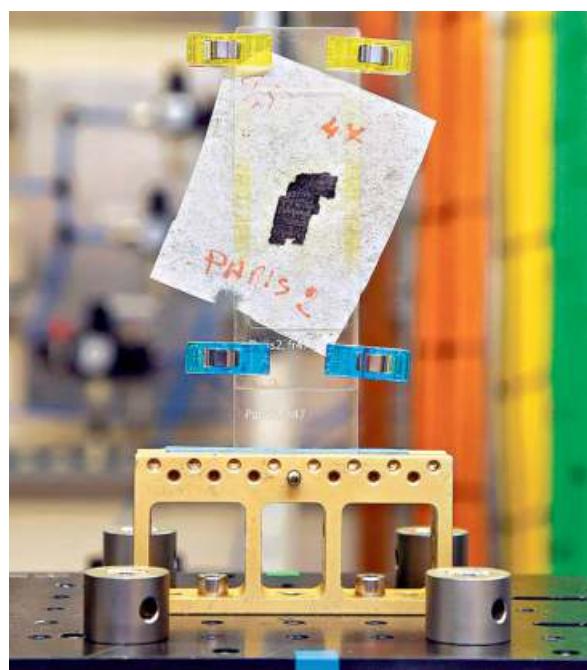
"Our normal idea of a scroll is that you can just unroll it and read it," said Mr. Seales, director of the Digital Restoration Initiative at the University of Kentucky.

"But these scrolls can't be unrolled because the carbonisation makes them completely brittle and that brittle nature would damage it completely if you tried to bend it at all."

Instead, the Diamond facility acts like a giant microscope, producing light 10 billion times brighter than the sun that allows scientists to study anything from fossils and jet engines to viruses and vaccines.

"When the beam goes through the sample, it creates the possibility of an image that we can't really create any other way," Mr. Seales said.

The scrolls were discovered between 1752 and 1754 during excavations at the Herculaneum site near the Bay of Naples in southern



**Fine lines:** A piece of the Herculaneum scroll is pictured in the experimental hutch area after recently being scanned at Diamond Light Source in Didcot in Britain. (Below) A magnified view of a piece of the scroll. ■ AFP

Italy, in a house believed to have belonged to the family of Julius Caesar.

Unlike Pompeii, which was ravaged by lava during the eruption of Vesuvius in 79 A.D., Herculaneum was struck by a fiery cloud, which covered the city with ash, entombing everything intact.

One of the houses — the "Villa of Papyrus" — housed an important library of more than 1,800 text scrolls.

## Preserved by ashes

They were preserved by the ashes but carbonised and therefore impossible to unroll. In 1802, six of these rolls were donated by the king of Naples to Napoleon Bonaparte, who entrusted them to the library of the Institut de France in Paris to decipher.



But unfurling and reading them in their delicate state proved impossible, with two attempts in 1817 then in 1877 both failing.

More than a century later, in 1986, experts used a method involving chemicals to detach one scroll into several hundred small fragments.

"(It was) very difficult to read," said Yoanna Brault, a researcher at the Institut de France library, noting they were not able to trace the ink used.

However, advances in technology and special processes developed by Mr. Seales mean it may now be possible to virtually unwrap the Herculaneum papyri and uncover their contents.

"We rotate and view all 360 degrees around the outside (of) the object," Mr. Seales explained.

"(It) gives us the information of what was inside the object. We get that computationally, not physically."

Transporting the "entirely burn and extremely fragile" scrolls from Paris to southern England presented "some risks", according to Francoise Berard, director of the Institut de France's library.

"The ideal would be not to handle them at all but obviously we want to help in the discovery of the contents," she said.

"Therefore we accepted certain risks of deterioration during transport but we take maximum precautions because they are fragile like butterfly wings."

Other scientists have also tried non-invasive techniques to decode the documents to varying degrees of success.

In 2014, Daniel Delattre, a researcher at France's National Centre for Scientific Research, used a type of intensive X-ray to glimpse some of the scrolls' contents.

The method revealed Greek letters thought to be from the pen of Philodemus of Gadara, an Epicurean philosopher.

Michel Zink, of France's Academy of Inscriptions and Letters, said such texts "have rarely been preserved" in any form. "This is why these rolls are so important," the historian added.

## Sania was asked to stop playing tennis as a child

She was told 'no one would marry' her

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI



Sania Mirza

Tennis star Sania Mirza on Thursday revealed that as a child, she was once asked to stop playing as "no one would marry" her if her complexion turned "dark" due to the rigours of an outdoor sport.

Speaking at the World Economic Forum here during a discussion on women and leadership, Ms. Mirza said, "To start with, parents, neighbours, aunts and the uncles (need to) stop telling you how dark you will become and no one will marry you if you play a sport. I was just eight and everybody

thought nobody is going to marry me because I would get dark."

"It is so deeply embedded, this culture about how a girl needs to be pretty and by that also one means fair, I don't know why. This culture has to change," the sportswoman added.

## Killer fungus found in Australia

## AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

SYDNEY

One of the world's deadliest fungi has been discovered in Australia's far north for the first time — thousands of kilometres from its native habitat in the mountains of Japan and Korea.

The Poison Fire Coral fungus was discovered in a suburb of Cairns by a local photographer and subsequently identified by scientists, James Cook University announced on Thursday. Several people have died in Japan and Korea after mistaking the bright red fungi for edible mushrooms.

## New calendar imagines a 'world without climate change'

## RAJEEV G.R.

VENICE



"Earth CelebAction" is the theme of Lavazza's 2020 calendar, released here on Thursday, as the world heads into an uncertain future singed by extreme weather cycles, Amazon wildfires and brinkmanship over the climate deal.

Shot by the celebrated American photographer David LaChapelle for the Lavazza Group, the stunning photos set in Maui, Hawaii are as life affirming as they are a contrast to a world under siege by 20th century lifestyles. In their conception and execution, they are a fitting continuation of Amy Vitale's shots of art installations in natural settings in the "Good to Earth" series of the 2019 calendar.

Francesca Lavazza of the foundation says the calendar is a celebration of variety. It calls for proactive and positive action. "Now nature — tamed, endangered, mortal — needs to be protected from people. When we are afraid, we shoot. But when we are nostalgic, we take pictures," Susan Sontag's words in *On Photography* (1977) sound prescient as art and literature engages more with climate change.

The writer is in Venice at the invitation of the Lavazza Foundation

care, respect, change... In his own words, the photographs employ "magical realism and fantasy and uses the natural world as a heavenly garden... an escape to a better place, like a story book, a world without climate change, people living in harmony."

Francesca Lavazza of the foundation says the calendar is a celebration of variety. It calls for proactive and positive

## INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

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Contract No. and Title: MPSDP/GSP/Works/01: Construction of Global Skills Park

Deadline for Submission of Bids: 15 November 2019 at 15:00 hours (IST)

9009690699

Email: [mpsdp.dsd@gmail.com](mailto:mpsdp.dsd@gmail.com), [gmprojects.mpsdp@gmail.com](mailto:gmprojects.mpsdp@gmail.com)

6. A pre-bid meeting will take place on 15 October 2019 at 11:00 hours (IST), at the address stated in the Bidding Document.

7. To purchase the Bidding Documents in English, eligible Bidders should:

- Write or visit the office of the Employer at address stated above;
- Pay a non-refundable fee of INR 15,000/- (US\$250) towards the cost of Bidding Document in the form of Bank Demand Draft in the name of "Directorate of Skill Development" payable at Bhopal.

In case of written request and receipt of payment towards the cost of Bidding Document, the document will be handed over to the person authorized by the Bidder or sent by post/courier. The Bidders who wish to receive the Bidding Document by post/courier shall have to pay an additional amount of INR 5,000 for delivery within India, or USD 250 for delivery outside India. The method of payment will be through Bank Demand draft payable at Bhopal. No liability will be accepted for loss or late delivery.

The eligible Bidders may download the Bidding Document in English language from the website <http://www.mpskills.gov.in>. Such Bidders shall still be required to get a hard copy of the Bidding Document by writing or visiting the office of the Employer and pay the associated costs to receive the Bidding Document (see above) preferably prior to the pre-bid meeting (see para 6 above) or at sufficient time prior to the bid submission deadline at the latest (see para 8 below) if they decide to submit a bid. Eligible Bidders who download the Bidding Document from <http://www.mpskills.gov.in> website shall promptly inform Directorate of Skill Development (DOSD) in writing and provide their contact details at the address given above, failing which Directorate of Skill Development (DOSD) shall not be responsible if the Bidder does not receive clarifications and amendments, if any.

8. Deliver bids:

- To the address above
- On or before deadline: 15 November 2019 at 15:00 hours (IST)
- Together with a Bid Security as specified in the Bidding Documents.

Technical Bids will be opened at 15:30 hours after the deadline for bid submission in the presence of Bidders' representatives who chose to attend.

## SuperM to debut in Hollywood

## REUTERS

SEOUL

K-pop supergroup SuperM, formed by seven members of different South Korean boy bands, are set to make their Hollywood debut.

They are due to make their debut at the Capitol Records Tower in Los Angeles on Saturday.

"It feels like a dream, especially because its with these members," one of the group, who goes by the name Taemin, told a news conference in Seoul.

Taemin is a member of the group SHINee. The other members of SuperM are from the bands EXO, NCT 127 and WayV.

South Korean pop groups are becoming increasingly popular across Asia and beyond.

scribed by UNESCO as part of Portugal's cultural heritage.

In Lisbon, the duo performs at The Late Birds hotel, an urban resort catering for gay men in the capital's trendy Bairro Alto neighbourhood. The audience listens intently.

## Untold stories

Rather than sticking to classic fado themes of general malaise, the pair, who are themselves both gay, take the traditional style but turn the lyrics to LGBTI (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex) stories.

Their playlist features songs about a fisherman's love for a fishmonger, the desperation of a gay dancer locked up in a psychiatric hospital and the pride of a transsexual woman who became a figurehead for LGBTI activists.



Tiago Lila aka Lila Fadista, right, and Joao Cacador. ■ AFP

Portugal's traditional style of folk song gets a new twist from the band

## AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

LISBON

Wearing a long black wig, fishnet stockings and a miniskirt, "Lila Fadista" wafts a fan in front of his beard as he sings about the gay community's pain and revolt in lyrics not heard before in fado, Portugal's traditional style of folk song.

Tiago Lila, his real name, is performing alongside band mate Joao Cacador, who also breaks fado tradition by strumming an electric guitar rather than a 12-string acoustic one.

Hiding under a large felt hat, only Cacador's leopard print trousers and stiletto shoes are plainly in view.

Together, the duo makes up the band "Fado Bicha", which translates from Portuguese as "Fado Queer".

Although not widely known among the general public, they have toured Por-